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Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 79 - November 2012
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1:35 KV-8 Flamethrower

IRAQI T-62
Trumpeter's 1:35 kit detailed

TINY TOLDI
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INSIDE: Bronco 1:35 Zrinyi ■ Dragon 1:35 StuG IV ■ Italeri 1:35 Sturmtiger ■ SKP 1:35 Challenger ■ and more…

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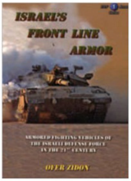

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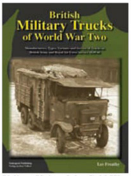

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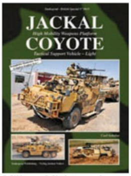

Military Miniatures in Review 57
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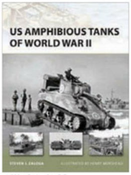

Allied Axis 28
Articles covered in this issue: SdKfz 6 5-ton halftrack prime mover, 3-inch antitank gun M5, U.S. T1/M6 Heavy Tank, Sprengladungsträger (SdKfz 301) Ausf. A and B, Covenanter Heavy Cruiser Tank. Paperback, 96 pages, black and white photographs.
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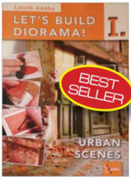

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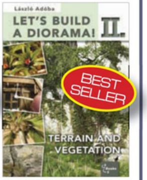

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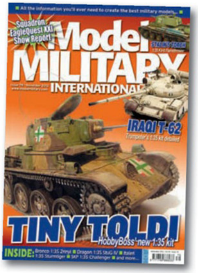

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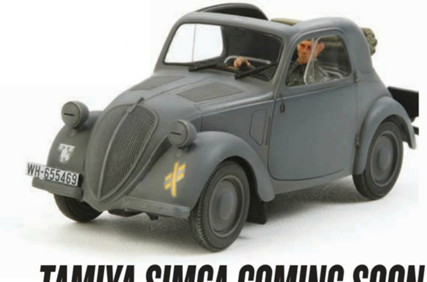
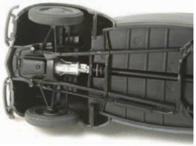




TAMIYA SIMCA COMING SOON

The Simca 5 was a small passenger car that first appeared in March 1936. It was almost identical to the Fiat 500 Topolino as the car was actually designed by Fiat. The Simca 5 was equipped with independent front suspension, four-speed transmission, hydraulically-controlled drum brakes, and a 12-volt electrical system. At the time, the car was meant to be affordable for the French public in the same way that the later Volkswagen Beetle and Fiat 500 brought inexpensive private motoring to the masses in Germany and Italy respectively. It was also very fuel efficient. Many were in use by the time WWII began, and the German Army captured large numbers of them when they occupied France. These were pressed into military service as staff cars for transporting personnel and liaison duties. Over 46,000 Simca 5s were built by the time production ended in 1946.

Tamiya's latest surprise announcement is a 1:35 scale kit of this small but important vehicle. The new Simca will feature separate doors that may be posed open or closed, a furled tarpaulin top, detailed front and rear suspension, a German army driver and three marking options.

We will have more news on Tamiya's 1:35 scale Simca as it comes to hand.

Tamiya will also release a 1:35 scale mid-production Hetzer with an Aber turned metal barrel and photo-etched detail parts.

Thanks to Tamiya Japan for the information and images ***www.tamiya.com***

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net***

A10 FULL KIT AND DEBUT FIGURE FROM INSIDE THE ARMOUR

The latest full kit from Inside the Armour is a British 1:35 scale A10 tank.

The A10 served with the British in France with the BEF, in the UK, in Greece and in the Western Desert and this release may be used to model an A10 from Greece, the UK or North Africa.

This is the ex-Cromwell Models kit enhanced with 26 new resin parts and 21 all-new etched metal parts

Unlike the original Cromwell release, the kit now includes three mudguard options, an optional fuel tank, all new suspension and turned metal barrels. The kit also includes a resin Commander 'half figure'.

This kit is available right now from Inside the Armour's website.

Inside the Armour has also released its very first figure – a 1:35 scale Canadian Sniper.

The figure, sculpted by Radek Pituch is based on pictures of a famous Canadian Sniper and features his headscarf of snipers scrim, and the grenade, binoculars and Kukri the Sgt habitually carried as seperate items.

A further head with a commando style wool cap is included to allow the figure to be used as a British or Commonwealth Sniper other than the famous Canadian Sniper.

The figure is available right now from Inside the Armour's website priced at £11.

Thanks to Inside the Armour for the images and information *www.insidethearmour.com*

Inside the Armour
ITAf-35001 Canadian Sniper
Figure Sculpted by Radek Pituch

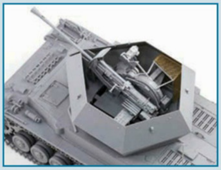
NEW COMPANY – VALUE GEAR

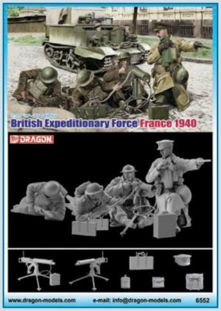
Value Gear is a new company producing generic 1:35 scale stowage for tanks, trucks and other vehicles. These include tents and tarp rolls and some crate sets with many other releases in the works such as German crates, American crates, ruck sacks, engine decks, halftrack bits and more.

Every set of Value Gear stowage will contain items unique to that set, no duplicate pieces.

We have reviewed the first batch of releases from Value Gear in the Incoming section of this issue of MMI, and we look forward to seeing what else they have in store for us!

Thanks to Value Gear for the information and images *www.valuegeardetails.com*

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DRAGON OSTWIND AND BEF FIGURES

Dragon has several interesting kits due for release by the time this magazine is in your hands.

Dragon kit no. D6550 is a 1:35 scale 3.7 cm FLAK 43 Ostwind "Smart Kit". The 3.7 cm Ostwind is a logical development of Dragon's Panzer IV family, and represents a full production model. German troops called this vehicle the "cookie tin" due to its chunky turret.

The kit features a one-piece hollow muzzle brake with slide-moulded barrel, individual link tracks and photo-etched parts.

Also available now is a new set of 1:35 scale British Expeditionary Force figures. This set fills a gap in figure modelling, and will be welcomed by anyone modelling a scene in France 1940. A tripod-mounted Bren gun, extra weapons and accessories are included in addition to the four figures.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net***

BRAND NEW TOOLING!
03097
Leopard 2A6 / A6M, 1:35
Model detail
03096 SPz PUMA
03096 SPz PUMA, 1:35
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REVELL P20
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Build Your Dream!

Big Cats on the Prowl

1:35 Leopard 2A6/A6M and SPz PUMA

03097/03096

Introduced in 1979, the Leopard 2 main battle tank is still considered to be one of the best combat vehicles in the world. A continuously evolving development programme saw the 2A6 version enter service with the German Army in 2001, carrying the powerful L55 Rheinmetall 120 mm cannon and capable of reaching an impressive top speed on 72km/h.

The later 2A6M variant offered enhanced mine protection plus a number of internal modifications to improve crew survivability. It is currently on active service with a number of countries including Canada, the Netherlands and Portugal.

The PUMA armoured personnel carrier is the most modern infantry vehicle to be developed for the German Army. It combines the highest levels of protection with excellent mobility and firepower plus its modest weight makes it extremely suitable for air transportation. It also offers a close range observation and control system that acquires and evaluates important target data that the digital fire control system then utilises to direct the stabilised main cannon. Carrying 3 crew and 6 infantrymen the PUMA is currently undergoing operational proving with the German Army and the first vehicles are likely to go into service in 2013.

Both the **PUMA** and **Leopard** model kits feature:

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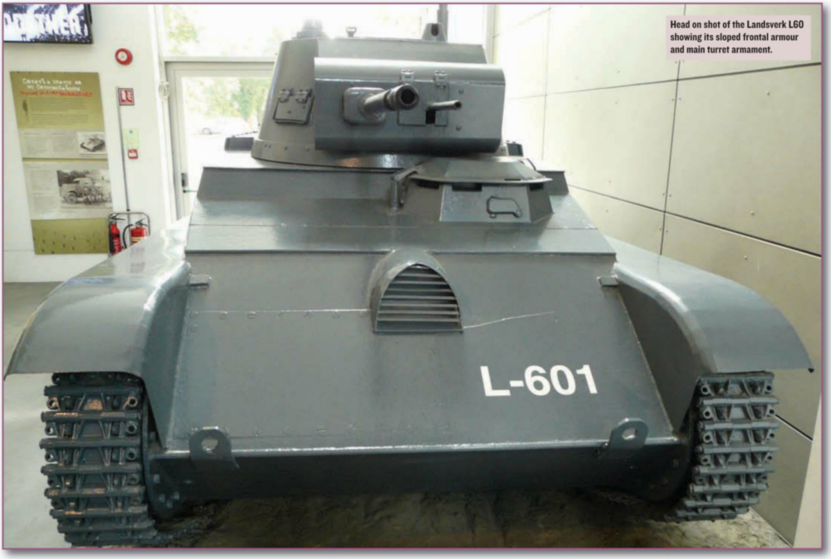


Head on shot of the Landsverk L60 showing its sloped frontal armour and main turret armament.

LANDSVERK L60 WALKAROUND

With an eye towards Hobby Boss' new Hungarian Toldi Tank, Zack Sex brings us a walkaround of the Swedish Landsverk L60 of which the Toldi is a licensed copy. The L60's light armament and armour limited its potential during the cut and thrust engagements of the Eastern Front.

Produced during the inter-war years, the Swedish Landverk L60 light tank was the design of Otto Merker, a German tank designer who worked for Krupps as well as Landsverk. The Germanic influence of such designs as the Panzer I and Panzer II is readily apparent in this angular light tank.

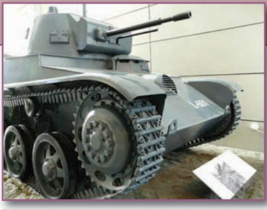
The Swedish army used over 180 examples of the L60 and over the years these were updated with new armament and various turret configurations. Exports during the 1930s were very few, with Ireland receiving two and Austria, prior to Anschluss, obtaining one.

The Hungarian military adopted the Landsverk in the form of the Toldi as their light reconnaissance tank. Sadly this vehicle was nowhere near sufficiently armoured nor armed for combat on the Eastern Front. When confronted by the Russian T-34 and KV-1, the Toldi was completely outclassed to the point that the only Toldi tanks left in existence today are the two that sit in Kubinka tank museum outside Moscow, trophies of the Great Patriotic war.

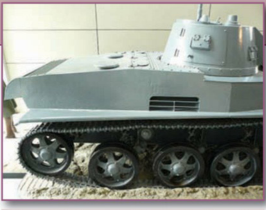
The Hungarians did however find an effective use for the Toldi chassis by providing some common components for the elongated Nimrod self propelled anti-aircraft gun, which mounted a Hungarian variant of the Swedish 40mm Bofors canon, but that is a story for another day.

Fortunately, the two Irish Landverks have been preserved. One is on display in the National Museum Collins Barracks in Dublin and the other in working order in the Irish Defence Forces armour workshops situated in the Curragh Military Camp in County Kildare.

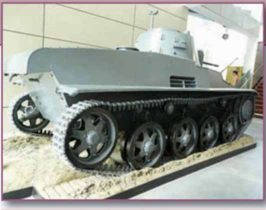
The Landsverk L60 was to have its last hurrah neither in Sweden nor on the Eastern Front, but in the Caribbean of all places, where Dominican Republic Landsverks (25 of the best retired Swedish examples were sold to the Dominican Republic) were used when General Rafael Trujillio was assassinated in 1961. The ensuing military upheaval between army factions ultimately led to a U.S military intervention in 1965 due to the fear of another Cuba on their doorstep. This resulted in a number of engagements where Landsverks, up-armoured with 37mm guns, came off the worst against U.S Marines. In three actions, Landsverks were engaged and destroyed by recoilless rifles, M 48s and the six-barrelled Ontas tank destroyer - a sad and unfitting end for a vehicle that began life in the icy wastes of Scandanavia and had a strong influence on German and Russian armour design. ■



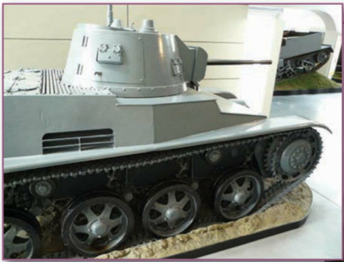
Front three quarter view of the L60 showing the dynamic lines of this light tank design. Its similarity to various early Russian and German tanks is evident.



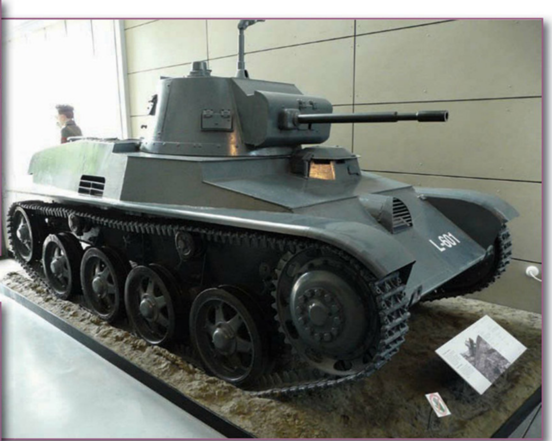
Side view of the L60 rear engine deck and road wheel layout of this clean and tidy tank design.



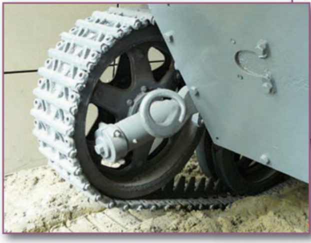
Rear three quarter view of the L60 showing its large road wheel system and narrow gauge track.



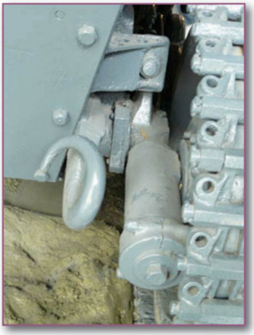
Side view of the front turret area of the L60 showing its angular lines.



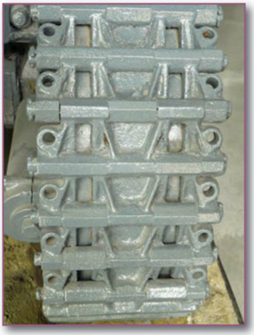
Front three quarter view of the L60 showing the large road wheel to good effect.



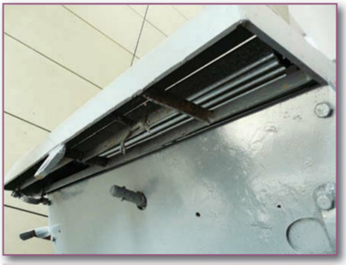
Detail shot of the rear idler wheel. Of note here is the simple design of the tow hook.



Overhead detail shot of the rear idler wheel attached to the shock absorber.

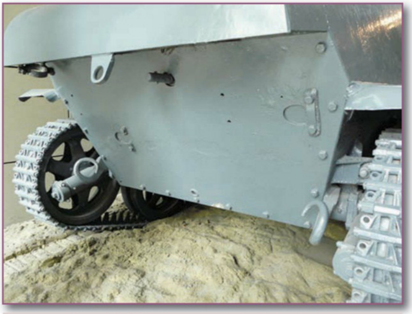


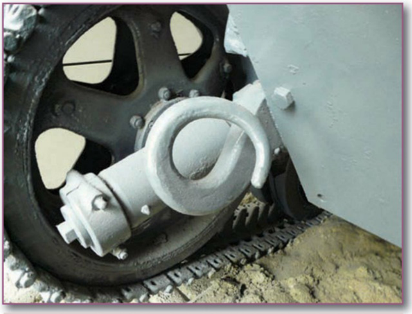
Detail shot of the narrow gauge track of the L60.

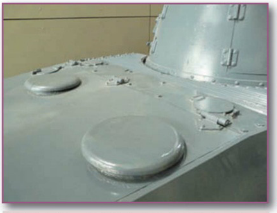


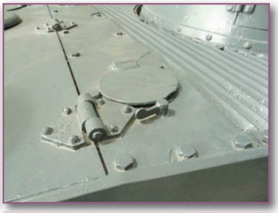
Detail shot of the engine intake vent situated on the rear bulkhead of the L60.

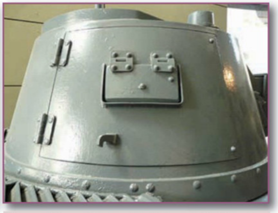
Think Tank - Landsverk L60 Walkaround

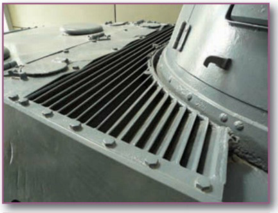

Close up shot of the rear of the L60 showing the rear bulkhead with its bolted on plating.

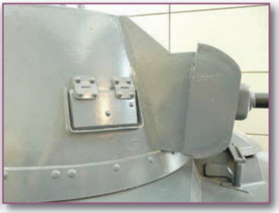

Detail shot of the rear idler wheel. Of note here is the distinctive Hungarian pigtail-style tow hook.

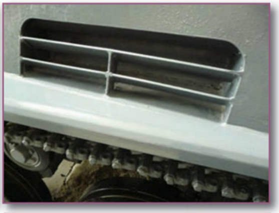

Detail shot of the engine deck showing the hinged design of the engine compartment hatch. Of note are the two air outlet covers.

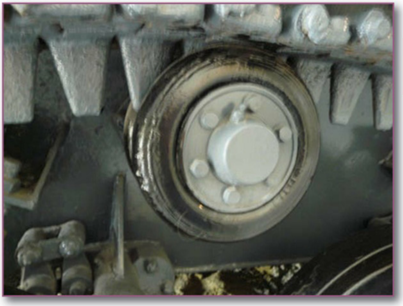

Detail shot of the engine cover hinge. Note the fuel filler cover with its hinged design and simple catch.

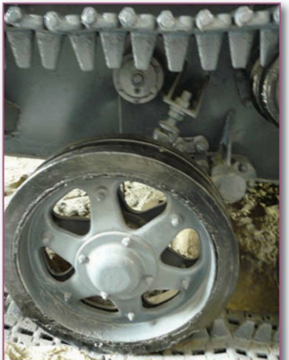

Close up of the rear of the turret showing to good effect the entry hatch with its inset viewing port.

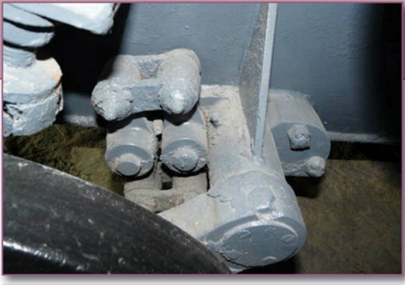

Detail shot of the right side of the rear turret area showing the grill above the engine compartment.


Close up of the front turret area showing the front right viewing port.

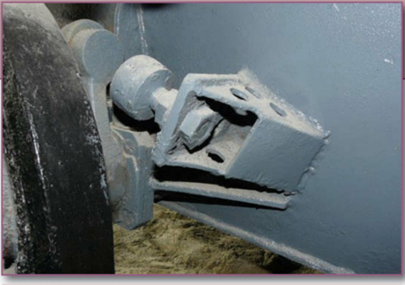

Close up of the right rear of the side of the L60 showing the side air intake.


Close up shot of one of the L60 return roller, there are two of these on each side of the L60.

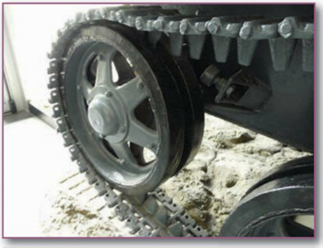

Close up view of one of the L60 four road wheels.



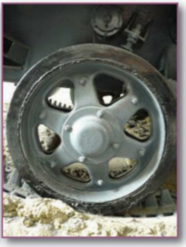
Detail shot of one of the main road wheel suspension assemblies.



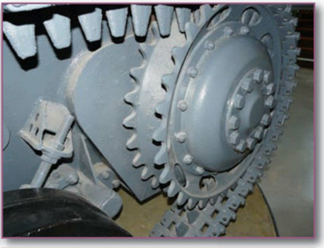
Detail shot of rear suspension damper.



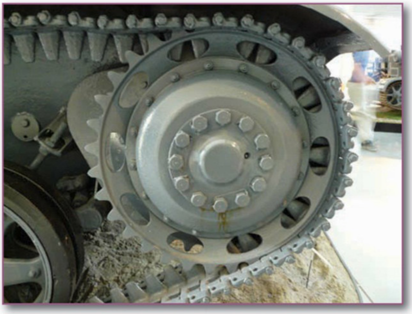
Close up view of the rear idler which is the same design as the road wheels.



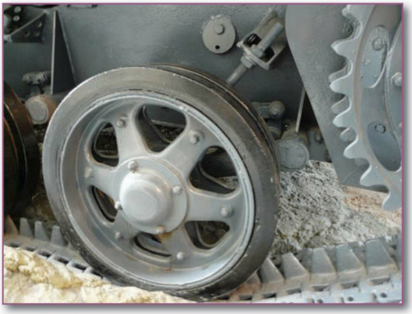
Side profile of one of the L60 main road wheels, its simple spoke design allowing for mud and debris to flow through the gaps.



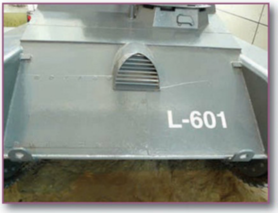
Side shot of the front drive sprocket of the L60 showing the narrow gauge tracks that, though suitable for European operations, would not be appropriate for the rasputa of the Eastern Front.



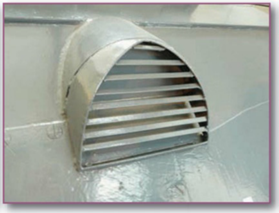
Side profile of the front drive sprocket, an intricate piece of design work mildly reminiscent of the Panzer III drive wheel.



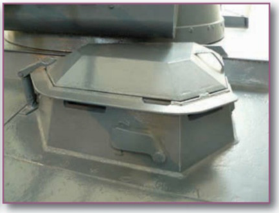
Detail shot of one of the main road wheels.



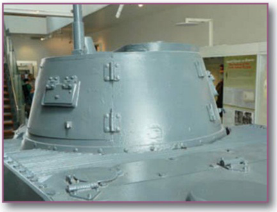
Detail shot of the bow armour of the L60 and louvred front lamp cover. Of note are the simple towing eyes positioned at the front base of the plate.



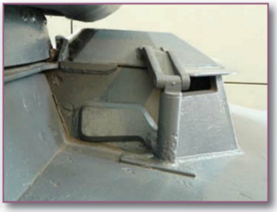
Detail shot of the louvred lamp cover found on the front of the vehicle. This is not the original fitting, which was hinged and would have opened to the front.



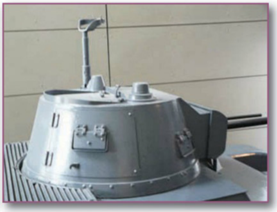
Detail shot of the driver's front cupola with its left hand side-rotating lid.



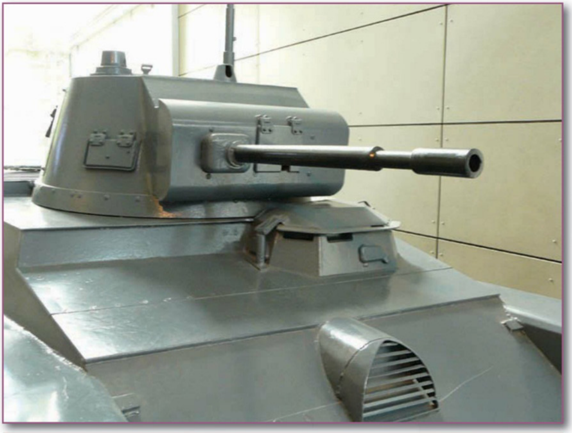
Close up shot of the rear of the turret showing one of the two rear entrance hatches and viewing portal.



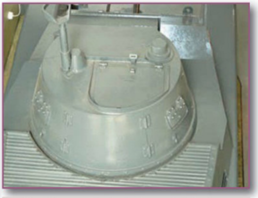
Detail shot of the hinge mechanism of the driver's hatch mounted to the left hand side of the turret.



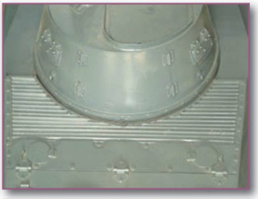
Top shot of the turret of the Landsverk showing its machine gun mount and periscopic covers.



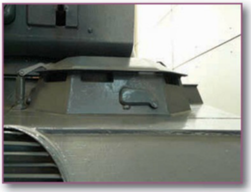
Front view of the Landsverk turret showing the 20mm Madison anti-tank gun main armament and closed portal where the .303 Madison machine gun was mounted.



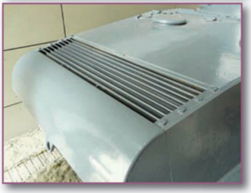
Top shot of the turret showing the Commander's hatch.



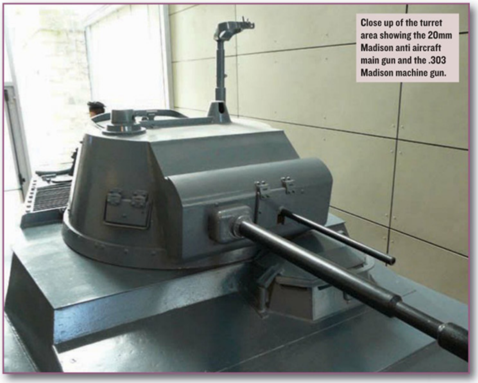
Detail shot of the rear of the turret area showing engine air intake and fuel filler caps found to the fore of the engine deck.



Detail shot of the driver's cupola hatch with its viewing slots and pistol port.



Close up of the rear engine deck showing the air intake grill.



Close up of the turret area showing the 20mm Madison anti aircraft main gun and the .303 Madison machine gun.

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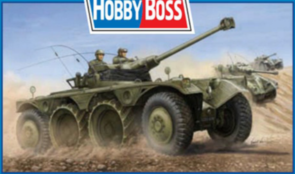
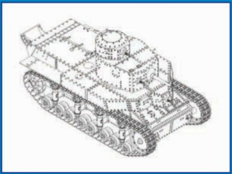
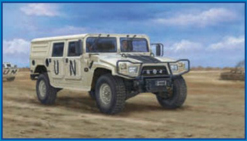


HBB82490
1:35 French EBR-11 Wheeled Reconnaisance Vehicle

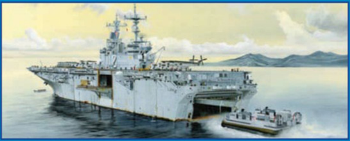


HBB82493
1:35 Soviet T-24 Medium Tank



HBB82468
1:35 Dong Feng Meng Shi 1.5 ton Military Light Utility Vehicle - hardtop Version A

HBB82478
1:35 Hungarian Light Tank 38M Toldi (B40)



HBB83403
1:700 USS Essex LHD-2

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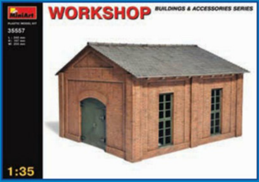
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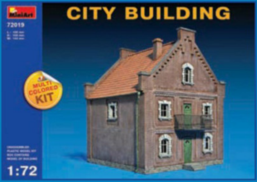
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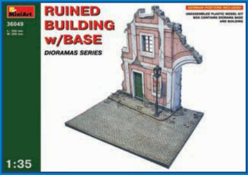
1:35 Pushing Soviet Soldiers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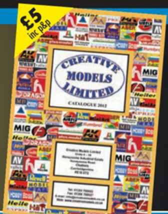
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1:35 Skis with Sticks

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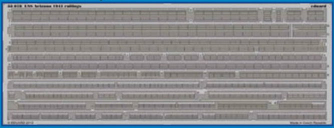
EDP53059
1:350 German Z-25 1944 Railings (TRU)

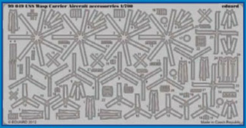
EDP53068
1:350 German Z-25 1944 (TRU)

EDP53069
1:350 USS Arizona 1941 (HBB)



EDP53078
1:350 USS Arizona 1941 Railings (HBB)

EDP36219
1:35 Dragon 6581



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1:700 USS Wasp Carrier Aircraft (HBB)

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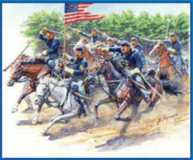
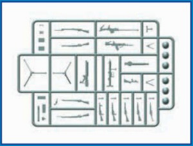


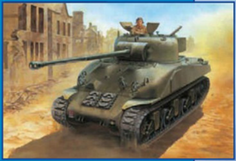
MAS3550
1:35 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment

MAS3568
1:35 Soviet Tank Crew 1943-45

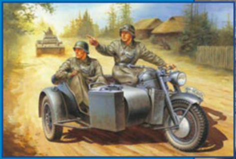


MAS35109
1:35 British Shooting Weapons in Period WWII

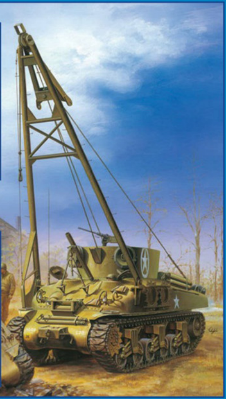
tasca



TAS35027
1:35 IC Firefly Composite Hull



TAS35026
1:35 Tank Recovery Vehicle M32B1



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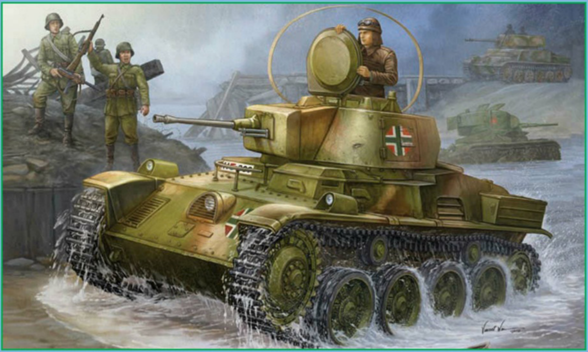
The box art from HobbyBoss' new 1:35 scale Hungarian Light Tank 38M Toldi I (A20).



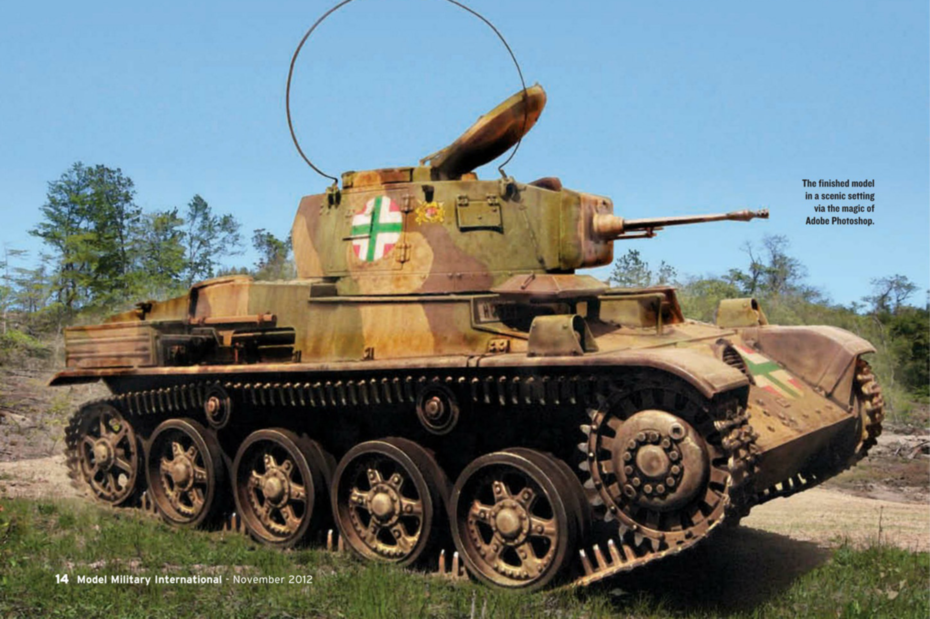
TINY TOLDI

Steve Zaloga adds extra detail and an interior to the brand-new HobbyBoss 1:35 scale Toldi Hungarian light tank.

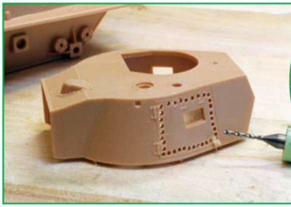
Although I have long been interested in the AFVs of central Europe, I was quite surprised when HobbyBoss announced plans to do a 1:35 kit of the Hungarian Toldi I. I have built a few models of the Toldi before. I scratch-built one in 1:76 scale back in the early 1970s, and I built a resin Commander's Model kit of the Toldi back in the 1990s. I was pleased to have a plastic kit of this attractive little tank.

THE KIT

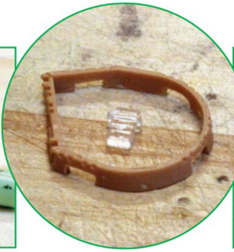
The HobbyBoss kit comes in tan coloured plastic reminiscent of Tamiya kits, while the individual link tracks are moulded in brown, similar to Model Kasten. There is a small photo-etch fret as well. The model has separate hatches for the Commander and driver, as well as many of the vision ports. However, the kit hatches are not really designed to be shown in the open position. The Commander's hatch has no interior detail, and the inside of the cupola is both bare of detail and moulded with a thick attachment plug around the lower base. Likewise, there is no interior detail inside the driver's area if the hatch is left open.



The finished model in a scenic setting via the magic of Adobe Photoshop.



My usual method for opening up doors is to drill a series of holes around the perimeter, and then cut between them. After this, I use a knife and file to clean up the opening.



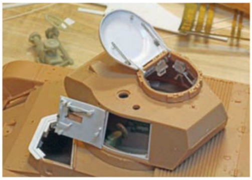
This is the commander's cupola after cleaning out the combing and cutting openings for the periscopes.

This is the turret assembly prior to painting. The grey bits are from the Balaton Modell kit.

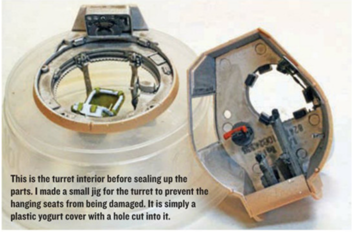
After giving the kit a quick perusal, I then had to decide how to depict the model. Some years ago, I had purchased a resin Balaton Modell Toldi I (Balaton Modell 38M Toldi I Magyar könnyü harckocsi) which comes with a partial interior. The new HobbyBoss kit is so superior to this old resin kit that I have no interest in building it. Rather than simply toss it in the bin, I thought I would use the resin interior parts to detail the HobbyBoss kit. In retrospect, very few of the resin parts are visible on the finished model, and most of the detail that can be seen had to be scratch-built. But having decided to add the interior, this was the start of the project for me.

ADDING AN INTERIOR

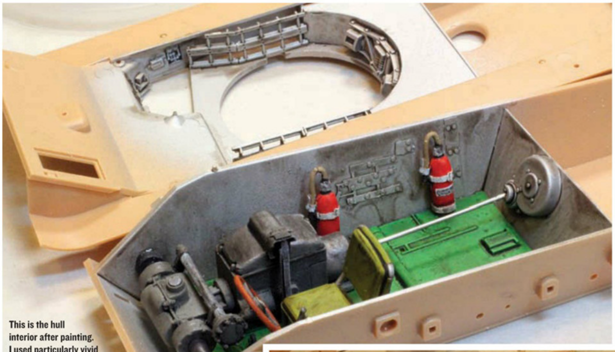
There is very little photographic detail for the Toldi interior that I have found beyond a cross-sectional drawing, and a few scattered photos of the Swedish Landsverk L60 on which the Toldi is based. On the other hand, the Toldi was a fairly simple tank, so I determined to put in the basic bits. Also, I had photographed the interior of the Landsverk M/41 tank at the Littlefield Military vehicles technology Museum in California, which gave me some sense of a lot of the Swedish fittings such as periscopes and vision devices. I'm not going to go into a lot of detail on the interior as I suspect that very few modellers will want to go to the trouble. ▶



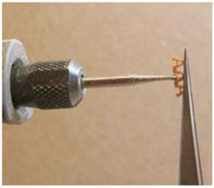
This is the turret with the new hatches temporally attached. The commander's hatch was made by vacu-forming over the kit hatch, while the side hatch was done from scratch.



This is the turret interior before sealing up the parts. I made a small jig for the turret to prevent the hanging seats from being damaged. It is simply a plastic yogurt cover with a hole cut into it.

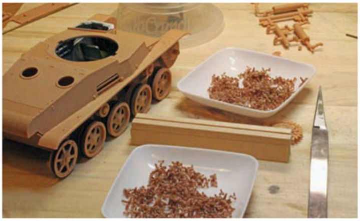


This is the hull interior after painting. I used particularly vivid colours on the interior, since it is very dark inside once the kit is sealed up.

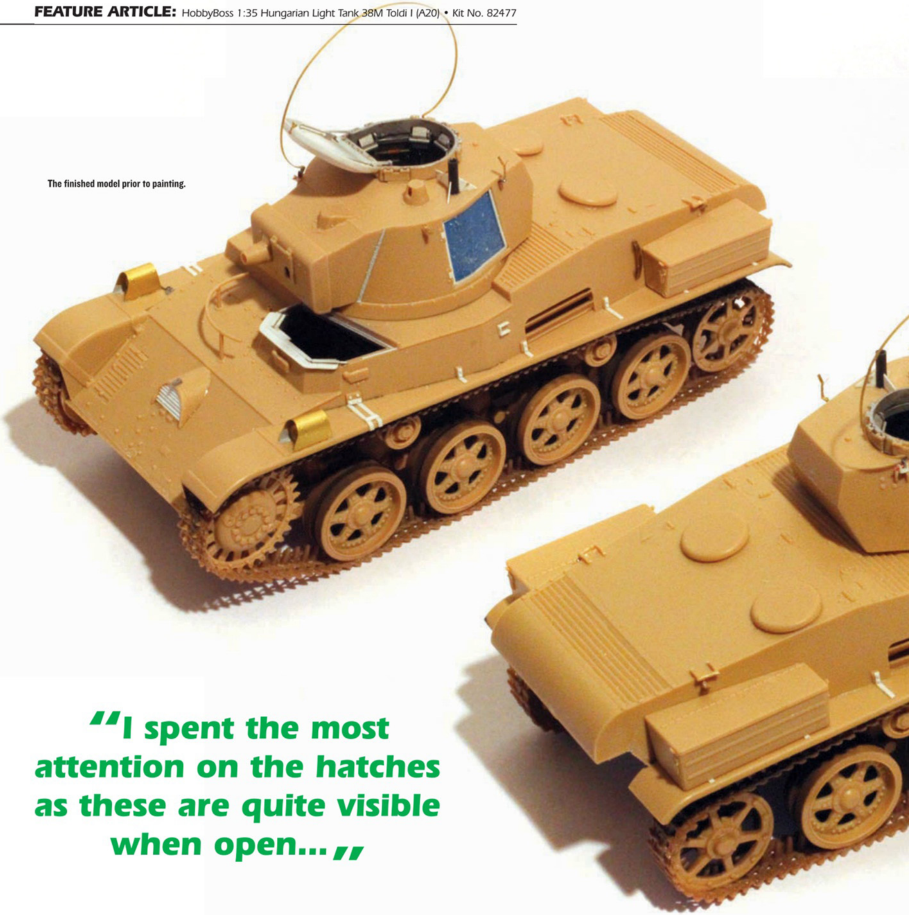


To clean up the kit tracks so that would fit, I used a small burr in my Dremel motor tool.

I mounted the Dremel tool into a Dremel vise so that I could keep both hands free during the clean-up of the track.



The kit hull with the tracks sitting in small cups prior to attaching. The bass wood jig in the centre is simply a couple of square strips of basswood glued to a larger square with a groove running down the centre. This jig was used to keep the track straight during assembly. I like to use bass wood or balsa wood for these jigs since they absorb some of the stray liquid glue I use during the assembly process.



The finished model prior to painting.

> **"I spent the most attention on the hatches as these are quite visible when open..."**

◄ I spent the most attention on the hatches as these are quite visible when open. I opened up the left side turret hatch in my usual fashion, first by drilling a series of closely spaced holes, and then connecting the holes until the hatch popped out. I then cleaned up the opening with knife and files. The new hatch is entirely scratch-built, starting with a basic sheet of .015 thou plastic with many small details. The Axis Discussion Group on the Missing-Lynx website had an excellent selection of photos of the hatches in the early summer of 2012. With the new kit out, perhaps we shall see a better set of photographic references of this interesting little tank.

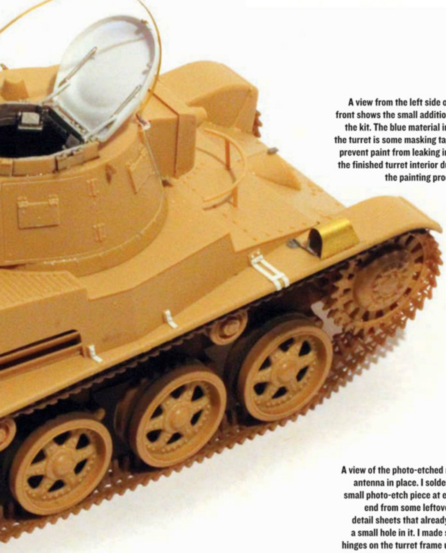
The Commander's top hatch in the kit does not provide a good representation of the actual hatch on the inside. It is moulded from very thick plastic, lacks the lip around the edge, and has a spurious rim around the indentation. The actual hatch was presumably forged, so I used an old Mattel Vacu-form to create a new hatch shape.

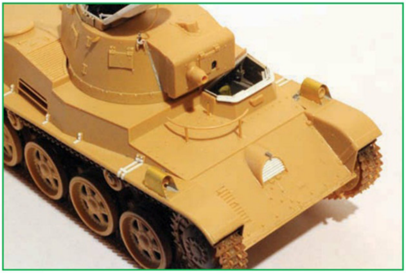
The problem with opening the hatches is that it exposed the interior of the Commander's cupola and the driver's area. The kit cupola (Part A18) is very thick, and I began by trimming away the interior to bring it closer to scale thickness and to remove the plug at the base. The small external flaps (Parts B21-22) covered up small periscopes, and I made a set of these using some Fine Molds clear plastic periscopes. The same applies to the driver's area. The three small rectangular indentations around the hatch opening are in fact periscope openings. The driver's area also has a pronounced flange around the front, and there are covers over the periscopes.

With the interior in place, the next issue was the proper colour. I have not seen any definitive evidence on Hungarian practices, and so I presumed that they followed the Landsverk style and painted the interior in aluminium silver. I painted the other large components such as the transmission in plausible colours, but in fact, they can hardly be seen on the finished model.

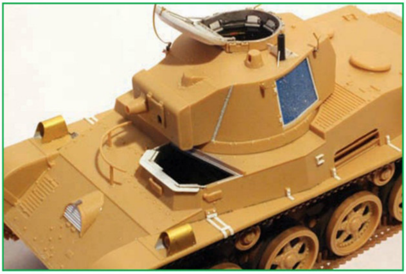
SUSPENSION

With the hull interior complete, I began work on the suspension. This kit goes together quite well, but unfortunately, the torsion bar arms for the wheels (Part B12) do not lock into the hull very well. I began

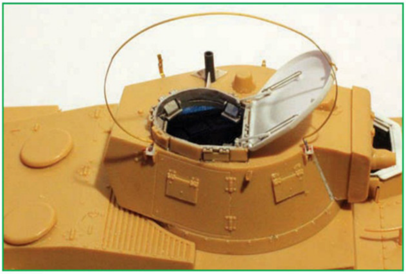




A few of the changes are visible on this front view, including the new grills for the headlight cover, and the details around the open driver's hatch.



A view from the left side of the front shows the small additions to the kit. The blue material inside the turret is some masking tape to prevent paint from leaking inside the finished turret interior during the painting process.



A view of the photo-etched radio antenna in place. I soldered a small photo-etch piece at either end from some leftover PE detail sheets that already had a small hole in it. I made some hinges on the turret frame using sheet plastic with small holes to accept a piece of wire to hold the antenna in place.

by attaching the arm to the wheel, and then propping up the hull with some spacers to ensure a level sit. Even if you do not have a drawing or other source, the wheel spacing is fairly easy to do since the rear idler wheel (Part B13/-17) should sit slightly off the ground.

TORTUROUS TRACKS

The kit tracks are by far the worst feature in the kit due to exceptionally poor fit. For such small parts, a good fit is essential, and HobbyBoss has really made a mess of the fit on these links. A far better approach would have been "link-and-length" as used on the Tamiya 1:48 tank kits. I recently finished a Tamiya 1:48 StuG III which has track of similar size to the Toldi, and it was a pleasure to assemble. The HobbyBoss Toldi track was pure torture. To begin with, each of the tiny links has four attachment points on the sprue, and with over 250 links needed. This is no fun at all. Each of the links required trimming on four of the inner joints in order to get them to fit together properly. I fixed my Dremel electric tool in a vise, and then carefully cleaned up each link. I hope that either HobbyBoss cleans up this part or that an after-market company comes out with a decent set. This is a real shame, as the HobbyBoss tracks are nicely detailed and quite delicate.

DETAILING THE HULL

The rest of the model goes together quite well and I experienced no other major problems except for the tracks. I did some small detail work on the turret. The Solothurn 20mm gun barrel is nicely moulded but the actual gun has a muzzle brake with small perforations. To duplicate this, I hollowed out the muzzle brake with a burr on my Dremel tool, and then carefully drilled out the holes using a very fine drill bit. Perhaps one of the after-market firms will grace us with a brass example! The co-axial machine gun mount as shown is too simple, and should not attach directly to the face of the external mantlet (part C7) but rather through the opening below the hatch. I drilled this out. The pintle for mounting the machine gun on an elevated anti-aircraft mount (part A9) is a bit thick and clunky on the kit and I replaced it with plastic rod and sheet plastic. There is a small "Y" shaped antenna rest on the left rear edge of the turret roof and I made this from scrap bits of brass sheet. ▶

The kit comes with a very delicate grill for the central headlight cover (part PE13). This is very attractive and probably based on the reconstruction at Kubinka. However, it is not entirely accurate since the actual part resembles venetian blinds to protect the headlight when closed. I created a replacement by laminating together a set of .010 thou Evergreen plastic strips, using a wide strip, followed by a narrow strip. After the assembly was dry, I carved it to fit inside the oval opening.

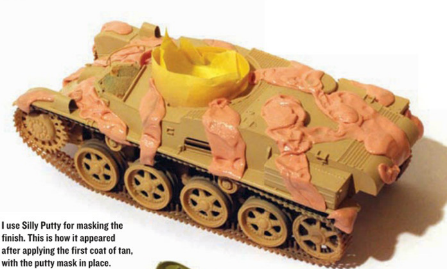
The kit does not include the usual tools, so I robbed these from my stash. They mainly came from Dragon German AFV kits. The standard tool assortment was a pick and jack on the right side and a shovel and pry-bar on the left. I replaced the kit's photo-etch fender reinforcing strips with plastic examples as the kit's PE brass is stiff and the rivet detail is not especially prominent.

PAINTING

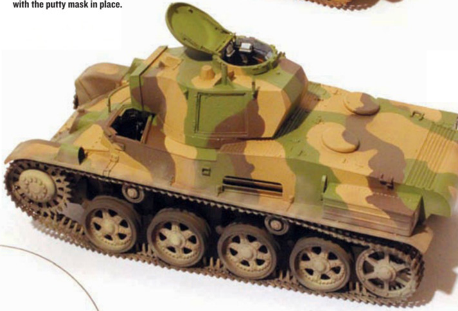
The initial production batches of the Toldi I such as those used in the Operation Barbarossa in 1941 had a hard-edged "French camouflage" scheme of dark green, dark brown, and ochre that was applied at the Manfred Weiss factory. In 1942, MAVAG introduced a soft-edged camouflage scheme of the same three colours so modellers have a choice. I wanted to depict a tank in Ukraine in the summer of 1941 with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, so I decided to do a hard-edged scheme.

My preferred method for masking such a scheme is to use "Silly Putty" which is widely available in toy-stores in the United States. It is easy to form, and it peels off the model easily after the paint is dry. I have a set of colour chips of the Hungarian tank colours given to me years ago by Istvan Bajtos, and they show a very dark green, very dark brown, and a light and dull sand colour. I did not try to duplicate these shades exactly, as I am a firm believer in "scale colour" especially for the darker shades.

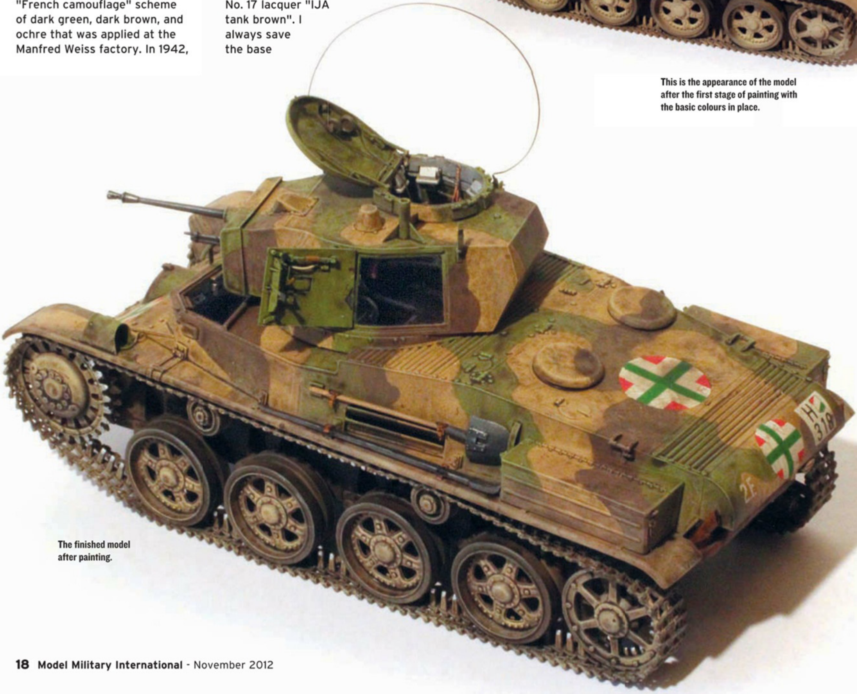
For this model, I started with the ochre shade and used Mr. Colour 44 Ship's Deck Tan lacquer, which is a fairly generic light tan colour. Once this was dry, I applied some blobs of Silly Putty and proceeded to airbrush the dark brown colour using Mr. Colour for Tanks No. 17 lacquer "IJA tank brown". I always save the base



I use Silly Putty for masking the finish. This is how it appeared after applying the first coat of tan, with the putty mask in place.



This is the appearance of the model after the first stage of painting with the basic colours in place.



The finished model after painting.

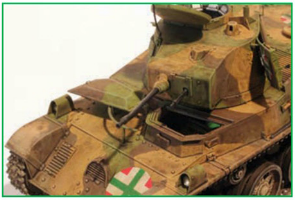
colour for last. For the overall green colour, I mixed up a batch of medium olive green using Tamiya acrylics. This mixture was "a little dab of this and a little dab of that" with an aim to keep it a little on the light side due to my weathering techniques, which tend to darken the overall finish. Once this was dry, I removed the Silly Putty and did some minor touch-up where necessary.

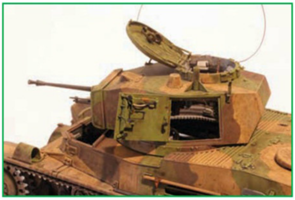
I find that multi-colour schemes such as this have too much contrast and look too toy-like for my taste. My usual remedy for this problem is to apply a glaze over the model to reduce the contrast. In this case, I used a small amount of Tamiya XF-49 Khaki mixed with Tamiya X-22 Clear and a lot of Tamiya thinner. I airbrushed this in thin layers until I was happy with the results. It's important not to add to much colour to the glaze, or to apply too thick a coat as it will spoil the camouflage pattern underneath.

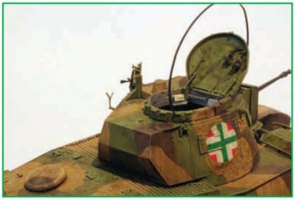
For the lower surfaces, I usually start with Tamiya XF-51 Khaki Drab, which works well as a dark earth colour. I had already painted bits of the suspension in this colour during the assembly process, especially parts such as the inner faces of the wheels that would be difficult to reach after assembly. I then began applying other lighter earth colours to the more exposed surfaces to add more colour depth. My usual medium dirt colour is Tamiya XF-72 JGSDF Brown, and the next, light colour was XF-78 Wooden Deck tan. I gradually blend these colours upwards on the fenders and other parts of the hull that would become dirty during travel.

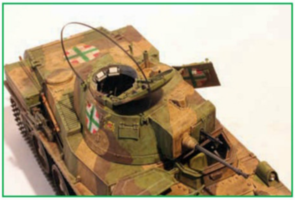
Once the basic camouflage colours and dirt colours were dry, I added the markings. The kit decals are fairly basic, and I wanted to depict the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, which used a variation of the national insignia in a round shape. Fortunately, I had a set of the older Bison Hungarian decals in my stash. (Bison 35114 "Hungary in WW2, Part II") which contain these markings. These are difficult to find at the moment, but apparently, a new set is in the works. Once these were dry, I protected them with a coat of Tamiya X-22 Clear and a little light overspray of some dirt colours to blend them in.

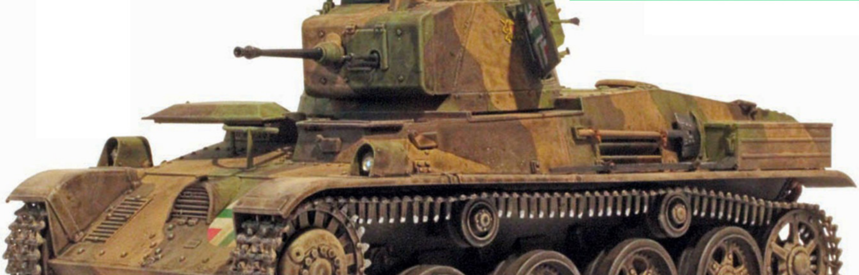
My usual technique to weather the surface is to apply weathering glaze by brush consisting of Holbein sepia oil paint in a medium of Winsor & Newton Liquin Fine Detail with mineral spirits (white spirits) as the solvent. This glaze serves both to help dirty the surface as well as acting as a detail wash. Rather than using a conventional wash consisting of only paint and thinner, I add the Liquin to give the mixture more body. This glaze does not flow off the model as quickly as a conventional wash, and by carefully streaking the glaze after it has been applied, it can be used to create weathering effects such as the streaking caused by dirt running down the side of the vehicle from rainfall and other natural effects. ▶

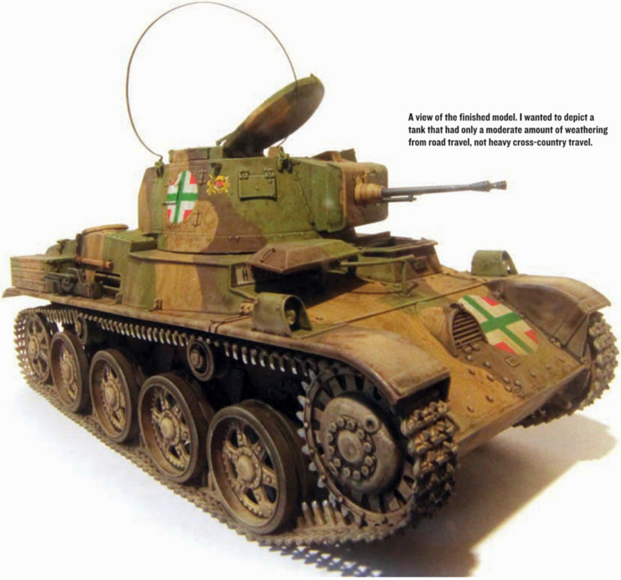

This close-up shows the armament which was painted in a flat dark grey and then metalized using graphite powder from a drafting pencil ground up in a pencil sharpener.


A detail view of the turret showing the open door. From historical photos, it would appear that the hatch interiors were left in the basic vehicle green colour.


A detail view of the turret from the right rear. I added a set of headphones inside the commander's hatch from the K59 resin/ photo etch set.


An overview of the turret area on the finished model. The decals on the model come from the Bison after-market set.





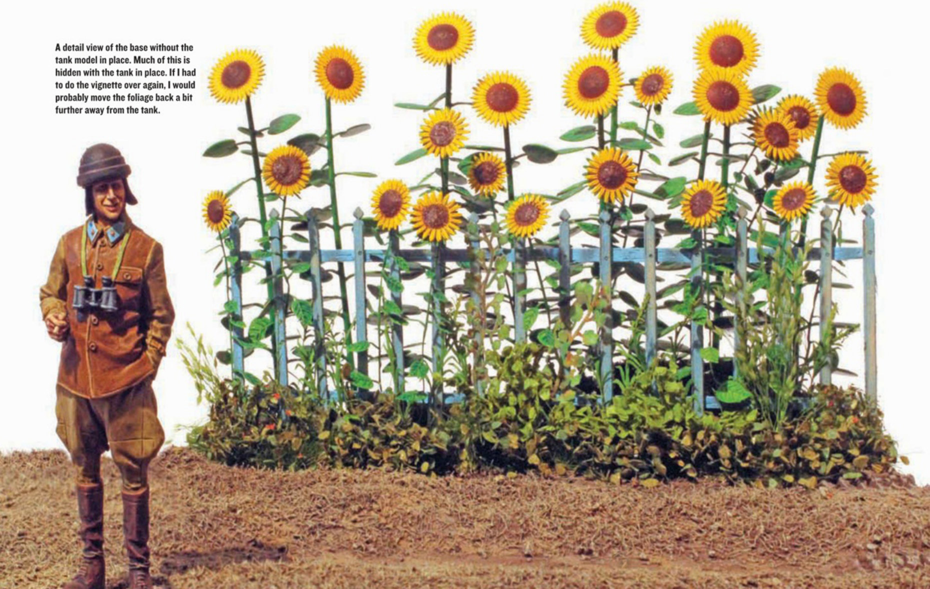
A view of the finished model. I wanted to depict a tank that had only a moderate amount of weathering from road travel, not heavy cross-country travel.

It is also possible to blend in some other weathering effects at the same time, and I applied some light earth colours using some Humbrol enamel mixed with mineral spirits. I usually accelerate the drying process by placing the model in a food dryer, the type designed for making jerky or dried fruit. This is especially necessary in the summer months in the Mid-Atlantic region where I live due to the high humidity. The Liquin leaves the model with a glossy finish, so I give it a more natural flat finish using Testor's Dullcoat, substantially thinned with lacquer thinner, and applied with an airbrush. I did some final detail painting on the model, including some dry-brushing, after applying the flat finish. I also applied some metallic effects, such as the gun barrels, after the flat coat, using graphite powder from a drafting pencil sharpener.

FINISHING THE MODEL

I usually mount my model on a small vignette base. In the case of the Toldi, I wanted to give it a slightly Ukrainian feel with a clump of sunflowers. I used two sunflower products for this - the injection-moulded plastic Diopark 1:35 Sunflower (35001)

"I like placing a figure next to my model to provide a scale reference, and on this model I used the excellent Bodi Hungarian Panzer Officer..."



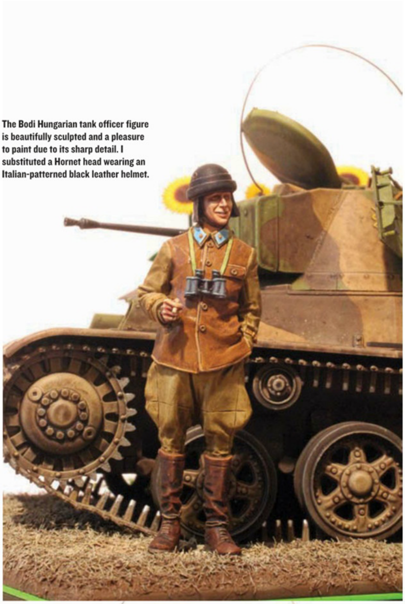
A detail view of the base without the tank model in place. Much of this is hidden with the tank in place. If I had to do the vignette over again, I would probably move the foliage back a bit further away from the tank.

and the photo etch Voyager Model Small Sunflower (TE 026). These are complementary as the plastic sunflowers are a bit more substantial while the photo-etch flowers add a level of delicacy lacking in the plastic examples. I placed these behind a simple laser-cut wooden fence (Green Line Wooden Fence (GL-090). I thickened up the foliage using various little bits of model scenery products from my stash, mainly weeds and grasses from the Silflor series.

I like placing a figure next to my model to provide a scale reference, and on this model I used the excellent Bodi Hungarian Panzer Officer (kit 35014). The figure comes with a soft cap, but I wanted to have the figure wearing the Italian-pattern leather helmet so I substituted a Hornet Italian tanker head.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the HobbyBoss Toldi is a very nice kit, with the obvious exception of the terrible fit of the track. I would like to do some conversions based on this kit, but the thought of cleaning up another set of these tracks is too discouraging. ■



The Bodi Hungarian tank officer figure is beautifully sculpted and a pleasure to paint due to its sharp detail. I substituted a Hornet head wearing an Italian-patterned black leather helmet.

Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1:35 Hungarian Light Tank 38M Toldi I (A20) **Kit No. 82477**

Accessories & Materials Used:

- Bison Decals Item No. 35114 - Hungary in WW2, Part II
- Balaton Modell 38M Toldi I Magyar könnyü harckocsi (parts from this resin kit used for the interior)
- .015 thou plastic sheet
- Evergreen plastic strip
- Mattel Vacu-Form Machine
- Fine Molds clear plastic periscopes
- Tools from Dragon German AFV kits
- Diopark Item No. 35001 - 1:35 Sunflower
- Voyager Model Item No. TE 026 - Small Sunflower
- Green Line Item No. GL-090 - Wooden Fence
- The Bodi Item No. 35014 - Hungarian Panzer Officer
- Hornet Italian Tanker Head

Paint & Finishing Products:

- Silly Putty for masking
- Mr. Color lacquer - 44 Ship's Deck Tan
- Mr. Color for Tanks - No. 17 lacquer "IJA tank brown"
- Tamiya - XF-49 Khaki; X-22 Clear; XF-51 Khaki Drab; XF-72 JGSDF Brown; XF-78 Wooden Deck Tan
- Holbein sepia oil paint
- Winsor & Newton Liquin Fine Detail
- White Spirits
- Testor's Dullcoat

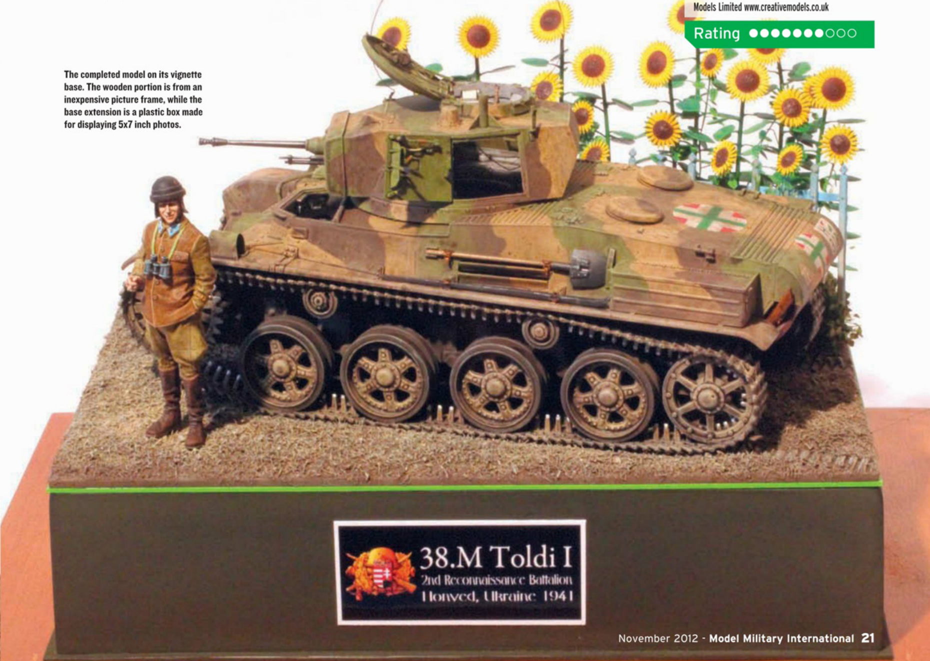
✓ Well engineered except for the tracks; interesting subject; vastly superior to earlier multi-media offerings.

✗ Tracks fit poorly and need lots of cleaning up - not fun! Missing the usual tools.

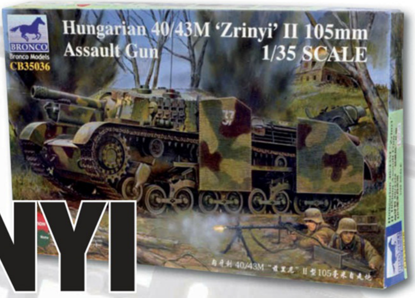
Available from

HobbyBoss kits are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Rating ●●●●●●●○○○



The completed model on its vignette base. The wooden portion is from an inexpensive picture frame, while the base extension is a plastic box made for displaying 5x7 inch photos.


BRONCO
Bronco Models
CB35036
Hungarian 40/43M 'Zrinyi' II 105mm Assault Gun
1/35 SCALE

Luke Pitt gets an early look at Bronco's 1:35 scale Zrinyi II Assault Gun.

ZRINYI

The Hungarian 40/43M Zrinyi II 105mm assault gun was produced between 1943 and 1944. The total number produced was no more than 66.

The suspension system borrowed heavily from the Skoda 35(t), as did the riveted armour. The gun layout was copied from the German Stug III. The end design was substantially larger than the Skoda 35(t) but around the same size as the StuG III. By all accounts, the vehicle performed well. Unfortunately, due to the rapid evolution of armour design in the latter part of World War II, opposing tanks had improved to such an extent that the design was essentially obsolete. The only known surviving example of the type is located at the Kubinka Tank Museum near Moscow.

Bronco's 1:35 scale Zrinyi kit is presented with a quite dramatic and well rendered box top illustration in a standard top opening box,. Eleven sand coloured main sprues are included with another eighteen for the individual tracks. The moulding of the pieces is generally first class with only some a few sink marks on some parts. The upper and lower hull parts are moulded as separate items and exhibit outstanding definition in both the rivet detail and overall shape. Four very well done photo-etched frets include the quite distinctive standoff armour. The contents of the kit are rounded off by the inclusion of a sprue of Hungarian fuel and jerry cans, one clear sprue for the optics and lastly a grey sprue of German weapons. Two schemes are included with the full-colour instruction booklet - green and camouflage.

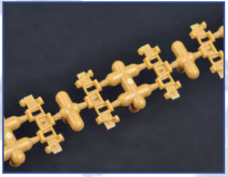
The first thing that strikes you when opening the box is the overall quality of the presented package. It looks and feels like a well thought out kit. However, this overall feeling is somewhat diminished when you start construction The opening description of the vehicle is "Zring" and not "Zrinyi". I was also somewhat mystified about the location of some of the smaller parts in the instructions, and had to go forward in the sequence to try and discover were the parts might be located. On the other hand, the drawings themselves are very well done. When it came to building the kit I felt that in some instances the subassemblies were overly ambitious in their execution. Take for example the bogie units. These assemblies have 31 parts each and are designed to fully articulate like the original vehicle. The problem is, the fit of the individual parts is somewhat sloppy so alignment of parts is tricky. I resorted to manufacturing an alignment jig and gluing the parts in place to keep everything lined up.

Another eccentricity of the kit is the sheer number of parts for no apparent benefit. Take for example the hatch hinges. Why would you have them separate as they are in the kit when you could have just as easily moulded them to the upper hull? The tracks are provided as individual items and are designed to click into one another but the smaller pins quite often bend so in reality they will need to glued. The detail on these units is very well done with even the cast marks in evidence. The prominent round end connector however will have to be drilled if you want to go that far.

On balance, the kit is very well done and is a credit to Bronco for having the guts to release it. It has a number of very good features like the photo-etch being encased in plastic sheeting (so when you cut the parts off from the fret it stays on the plastic sheet) and the option of opening engine panels. The fit is also noteworthy as this is where almost all rivet hull kits are often lacking. Not so with this kit, as the mating surfaces are sharp and this results in nice angular joins with no gaps to speak of. I like this kit as it is refreshingly different and pretty much better than I expected.

A certain attitude is helpful when building Bronco kits. They might not go together as quickly as some others, but they do have loads of details and for the most part are extremely rewarding when complete. ■

Thanks to Bronco for the review sample
www.cn-bronco.com


Individual workable track links – if you have the patience!

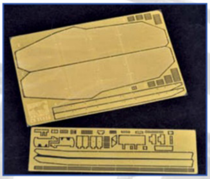
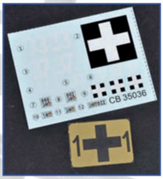
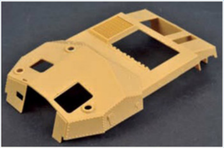
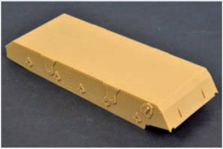


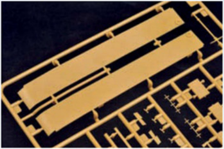
Photo-etched parts including the distinctive perforated skirts.

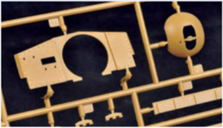


Decals and a photo-etched stencil are supplied.


The riveted upper hull is very well detailed.


One –piece tub for the lower hull.


The track guards are thinly moulded.


The distinctive ball mantlet.

Some detail is supplied for the gun and breech.

The suspension is designed to be made workable.

Hungarian fuel drums and jerry cans are included.

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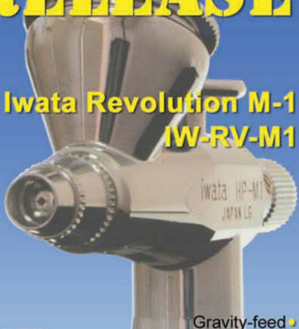
iwata HP-M1
JAPAN LG

- Gravity-feed with 1/20oz (1.5ml) cup
- Single-action
- Internal-mix
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- Stubby handle design
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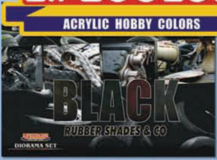
BLACK
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PG 102 Sinai Sand
PG 103 Lebanon Dust
AUTHENTIC ACRYLIC COLORS
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UA 902 IDF Sandgrey 2
UA 903 IDF Green

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TRACKS
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PG 105 Dry Dust
PG 106 Damp Dust
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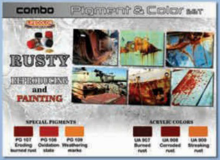
UA 904 Rubber Track
UA 905 Intermediate Wear
UA 906 Old Track


combo Pigment & Color SET
LIFECOLOR
RUSTY
REPRODUCING and PAINTING
SPECIAL PIGMENTS
PG 107 Eroding burned rust
PG 108 Oxidation state
PG 109 Weathering marks
ACRYLIC COLORS
UA 907 Burned rust
UA 908 Corroded rust
UA 909 Streaking rust

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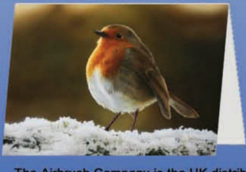
'Robin in Snow' painted by Alexander Medwell

LIFECOLOR
DIRTY EFFECT
grease-dirty grease-exhaust oil
LEAKING AND STAINS
EASY 3

LIFECOLOR
SCENIC DETAILS COLOURS
RUBBLE 2
EASY 3
LIFECOLOR
SCENIC DETAILS COLOURS
NORTH EUROPE VILLAGE
DEBRIS AND RUBBLE 1
EASY 3



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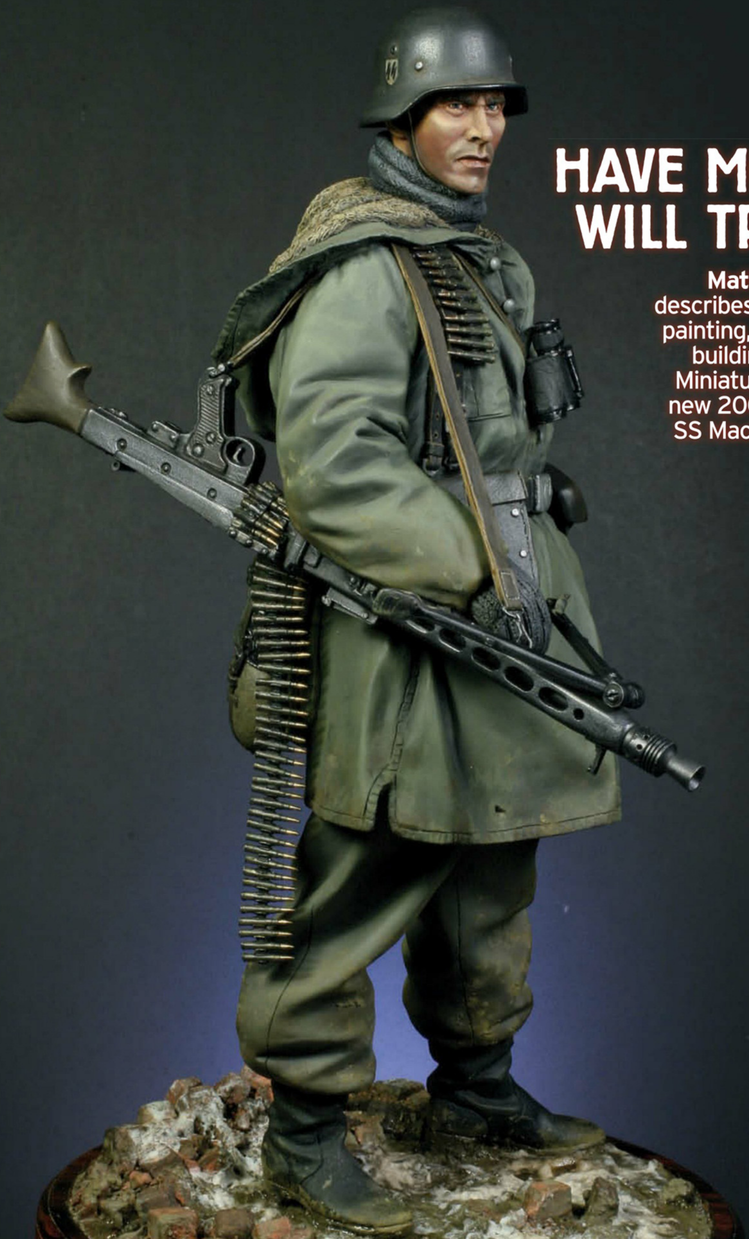
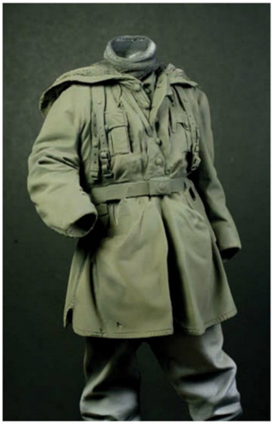
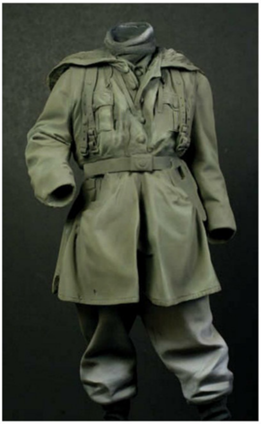


HAVE MG 42, WILL TRAVEL

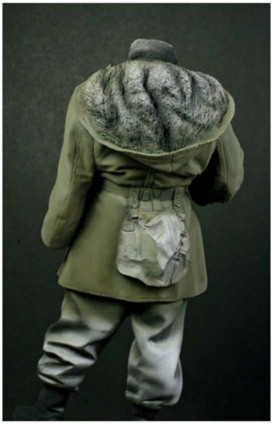
Matt Wellhouser describes in detail the painting, shading and building a base for Miniature PMC's big new 200mm Waffen SS Machine Gunner.



The base colours were applied by airbrush following a coat of black sprayed into creases and folds. All paints are Vallejo Acrylics unless otherwise stated.



Highlights were then applied to the high areas with a paler shade.

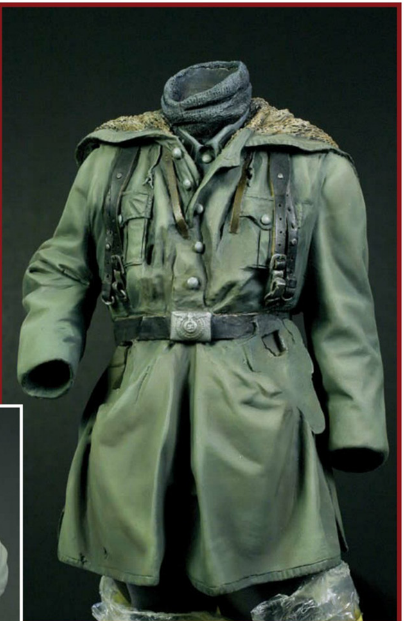


The lining of the coat is rabbit fur, which offers plenty of scope for creative painting.

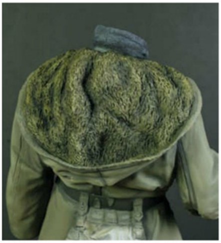
Years ago, John Rosengrant sculpted the master for the 1:9 scale Kirin Waffen SS Kharkov machine gunner. Back in the day (and today) that kit was a big hit in the large-scale figure arena. John has a style of sculpting that is immediately recognizable. The old Kirin kit is very hard to find, and is highly sought after by collectors.

Last year, a new company called Miniatures PMC came onto the figure scene. One of their first releases was another Kharkov machine gunner sculpted by John. This new figure was an immediate hit when John displayed it at the 2010 California SCAHMS (Southern California Area Historical Miniatures Society) show- matter of fact, he won Best of Show for his display. When I met up with John at the show, we discussed the figure and how it came about. He has an interest in Eastern Front warfare-particularly the Kharkov battles. John said that he always wanted to improve on the original figure. Both figures were sculpted wearing the SS fur lined Anorak. He discovered that the original Anorak worn by the German soldiers was much more voluminous than depicted in the first sculpt. He told me that he often seeks out original equipment and uses that on a human model to see how the drapery, folds, etc. work out. Then using pictures of that model and reference photos of the real deal, he develops his master for sculpting. That's exactly what he did for this figure. Needless to say, the final result is tremendous.

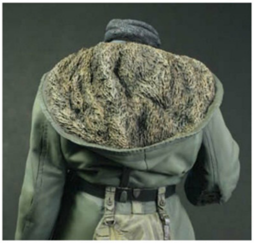
My main interest in figure painting is large-scale models - 120mm on up. I find the size to be ideal to work with and the end result has a fantastic visual impact on the viewer. When I first saw the original figure, I had to have it. ▶



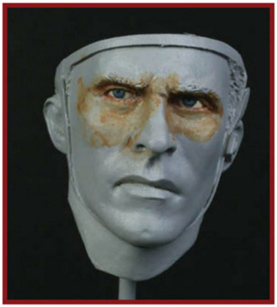
The leather straps and belt were base coated with Black, and then given heavily diluted washes of Leather Brown, Orange Brown and Brown Sand on the edges of the unfinished leather.

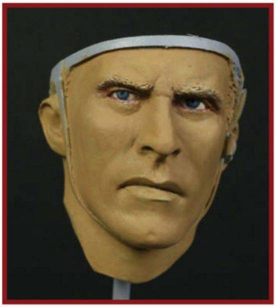


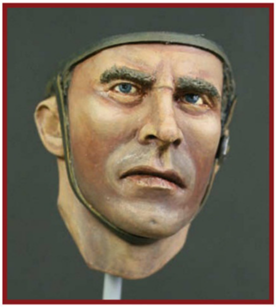
I laid in a base coat with a number I brush, then went to work with shadows and highlights.

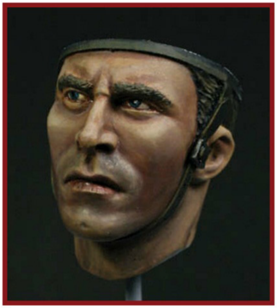


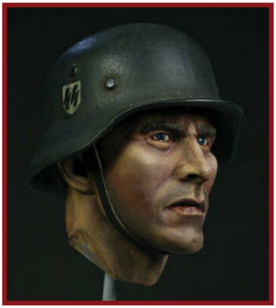
I used progressively lighter shades of colour as I worked to the tops of the fur, .

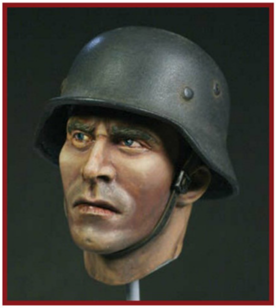

If the eyes are the window to the soul, then they are also the best place to start painting a face!


The face was painted with Vallejo Acrylics using my "standard" flesh mix. The base colour is Vallejo Brown Sand.


The first shadow tone is Brown Sand + Burnt Cadmium Red, with further deep shadows with Black Red added to the mix.


Highlights are the base flesh colour plus Vallejo Basic Skintone.


The helmet was base coated with Tamiya German Grey with a lighter mix of German Grey and Flesh sprayed from directly overhead. I then hand painted the SS insignia on the right side of the helmet.


The helmet was given a Burnt Umber oil paint wash. When partially dry, I used a cotton bud to remove some of the Burnt Umber. When dry, the helmet was rubbed with finely ground pencil lead.

MINIATURE PMC'S 200MM KHARKOV MACHINE GUNNER

Miniature PMC's 20mm machine gunner is packaged in a sturdy box with the pieces separated in the usual plastic bags. A really nice touch is a colour photo of the figure. This is personally addressed and signed by John Rosengrant and individually numbered. The kit is a limited edition.

Sometimes with bigger figures, the fit of the parts is vague and requires some effort to fit and fill the gaps. This kit was spot-on. All of the parts were very well cast, and Chris Mrosko (one of the guys behind Miniatures PMC) told me it was designed in such a way to hinder black market re-casters. I assembled the legs, torso, and arms. I always drill small brass pins into the shoulders just shy of the surface to reinforce the joint. I fill the remaining shallow hole with a spot of A&B putty to hide the hole.

COVERING THE LARGE AREAS

Getting on to throwing on some paint; I decided to stick with my usual practice and bust out the airbrush. On a figure this size, the airbrush is fantastic for shading and covering large areas. I started with several colours from Tamiya and laid in the base, shadows and highlights for the Anorak. I usually start with the top of the figure and work down - it makes it easier to hold. After the first base coat, which is Flat Black sprayed into all the creases and folds, I work on the colour base coat. Highlights then are applied, then the shadows. See the chart below for the mixes and colours.

RABBIT COLOURS

After the colours were applied to the anorak, I began painting the fur lining. On the original coat, the lining is rabbit fur. It really can be any shade from a light tan or brown, grey and combinations of those. I laid in a base coat with a number 1 brush, then went to work with shadows and highlights. As I worked to the tops of the fur, I used progressively lighter shades of colour. Unfortunately, there is no real recipe for this, it is just a matter of working with colour and keeping the shadows and highlights from turning to mud. As I progressed with the anorak and uniform, the details were picked out and painted. At about the same time, I refined the highlights and shadows with brush work. I used Vallejo Model colour that matches the base coat Tamiya colours. The leather straps and belt were base coated with Black, and then given heavily diluted washes of Leather Brown, Orange Brown and Brown Sand on the edges of the unfinished leather. Check reference photos, they will help you with the colours.

The trousers were either field grey, white or even camouflage. I decided to paint the trousers the field grey colour. I felt that in the figure modelling world, all Kharkov soldiers were painted with white trousers. I thought a little variation would be nice.

FLESH TONES

The face was painted with Vallejo Acrylics using my standard flesh mix. The helmet was base coated with Tamiya German Grey with my airbrush. I sprayed a lighter mix of German Grey and Flesh from directly overhead. I then hand painted the SS insignia on the right side of the helmet. At this point in the war, helmets could have double decals. I decided to make it a single decal helm. The helmet was given a Burnt Umber oil paint wash. When partially dry, I used a cotton bud to remove some of the Burnt Umber. When dry, the helmet was rubbed with finely ground pencil

The P38 holster, MG42 tool kit and boots were all painted in a similar fashion as the belt and webbing.

The fittings were added to the figure at this stage.

The MG42 is a little model in itself. It was really straightforward to build, but you have to pay attention that the barrel and receiver line up straight.

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I then rubbed the ground up pencil lead on the high points.

lead with my good old index finger. I always add scratches with a silver Prismacolour pencil on the edges of the helmet too.

As I worked through the larger parts of the figure, I was also working on the accessories. The P38 holster, MG 42 tool kit and boots were all painted in a similar fashion to the belt and webbing.

The bread bag was cast onto the figure and was painted in place using various shades of Vallejo acrylics- Canvas, English uniform, Khaki. Mounted on top of the bread bag is the canteen and mess tin.

The mess tin comes with a nice jig for bending brass wire into the correct shape for the carry handle. The tin was airbrushed with Alclad Aluminium, with a dash of black enamel added to tone it down. Then the tin was sprayed with a mix of Tamiya Flat Green and Olive Green. I waited a short time until the paint was partially cured, and then used a toothpick to chip off the paint. Acrylic paint not fully cured is a little "rubbery" and it peels up nicely when it's applied to a dissimilar base paint. The canteen's cup was finished in much the same way. The cloth cover was painted with a mix of Vallejo browns with a touch of Tamiya Flat base added. The flat base leaves a nice dead flat finish. There is texture moulded into the cover to simulate the rough fabric used.

THE MG 42

The MG 42 is another model in itself. It was really straightforward to build, but you have to pay attention so that the barrel and receiver line up straight. I left the bipod off until final assembly - I knew I would bust that into a gazillion pieces if I did not.

The gun was painted with Humbrol Metalcote, and when dry it was buffed with a cotton swab. I then rubbed the ground up pencil lead on the high points. Included in the kit are two sections of the sling. These disappear under the hood of the coat - really an ingenious way to work with that. I took extra time lining up the gun to the arm, and the sling placement. In the end, a little work with the hair dryer allowed me to line everything up. I should mention here that most of this work was done prior to paint being applied.

A length of machine gun belt is slung over the figure's neck. Likewise, there is a length hanging from the weapon. Usually the belts contain 50 or 250 rounds. The section over the figure is partially hidden by the hood so I made up two pieces to represent a length around the neck, then I assembled the portion hanging out of the gun. Studying my references and a 7.92mm Mauser belt ammo that I have, I noticed that the casings many times are lacquered steel. The Germans used steel cased ammo because brass and alloys of that nature were very hard to come by. The colour of that type of ammo was a metallic green. I really did not want to paint the casings brass, as that just did not look right. I mixed up a colour using gold printer's ink and Olive Drab enamel. Then, one by one I painted the casings. The bullets themselves were painted a copper colour and the links were a gunmetal black (Humbrol Metalcote). At final assembly, I used ACC to secure the belts and then used a hair dryer to coax them into position.

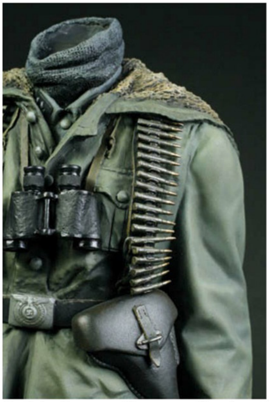
The binoculars were pretty straightforward, metal areas were painted a semi-gloss black and the leather trim was painted flat black. A drop or two of clear gloss simulates the lenses.

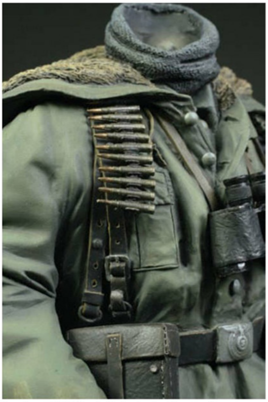
Once all the pieces and parts were painted, I began gluing stuff (technical modelling term) onto the figure - actually I just glued the MG tool kit, holster, mess tin and canteen. I went to work on the base, and then when the base was finished, I added the figure and all the other parts.

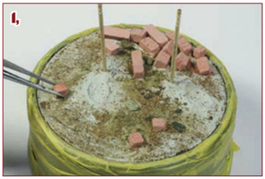
THE BASE

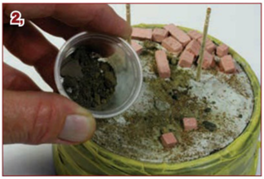
The base started life as a round turning by my friend Barry King. I masked off the sides and began drilling holes for the brass rods inserted into the figures legs. A mix of A&B putty was formed for the groundwork. While wet, I added dirt and rocks as well as a few bricks. The bricks were dollhouse accessories. The base at this point looked like a unfinished mess. The colour came next. I mixed up a "cocktail" of MIG ▶

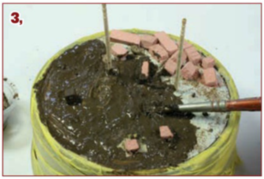
The bare anorak is about to be loaded up.

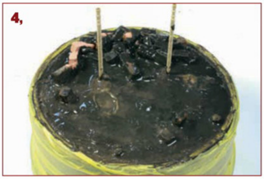

A length of machine gun ammunition belt is slung around the figure's neck.

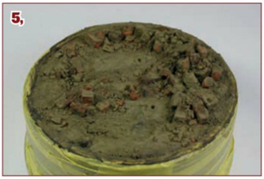

The section over the figure is partially hidden by the hood so I made up two pieces to represent a length around the neck then I assembled the portion hanging out of the gun.

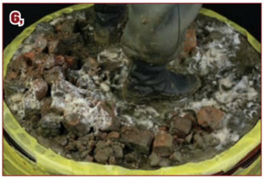












1, The base started out as a plain wooden turning. A mix of A&B putty was formed for the groundwork.
2, While wet, I added dirt and rocks as well as a few bricks. The bricks were dollhouse accessories.
3, I mixed up a "cocktail" of MIG earth pigment, Hudson and Allen mud, acrylic paint and white glue. This was painted on the base.
4, I wanted some parts of the ground to be "wet", and other parts to be "damp". My favorite for this is two products - Vallejo Water Effects Still Water and Future Floor polish.
5, By varying the amount of these two products, I can achieve this effect really easily. The snow was a mix of household baking soda and "Micro Balloons".
6, The snow was mixed in places with the Still Water and some earth colour to simulate "slush". Before I was completely finished with the groundwork, the figure was added to the base.

earth pigment, Hudson and Allen mud, acrylic paint and white glue. This was painted on the base. As it dried, I removed some of this from selected areas with a wet brush. I then went in with some "brick coloured" paint - really anything that looks like red brick and randomly painted the bricks. I did this while everything was wet. That way I could easily remove the colour if I got too wild. Once dry, I went back and touched up areas I felt needed more attention. I also gave the bricks and rocks a wash of diluted black paint to deepen the detail. I wanted some parts of the ground to be "wet", and other parts to be "damp". My favourite for this is two products - Vallejo Water Effects" Still Water and Future Floor polish. By varying the amount of these two products, I can achieve this effect really easily. The snow was a mix of household baking soda and "Micro Balloons"). The snow was mixed in places with the Still Water and some earth colour to simulate "slush".

Before I was completely finished with the groundwork, the figure was added to the base. Then I went in and added the final coats of mud, snow, dirt and colour. This was brought up onto the boots, trousers, lower sections of the anorak and elbows/ arms. In addition, I mixed up a diluted mix of the base anorak colour and added varying amounts of English Uniform and German Medium Camouflage Brown with about 90% water. This was used to add dirt "stains" to the legs, arms and lower portions of the figure. This ties the figure into the ground and makes it look like part of the scene instead of the figure just sitting on top.

Last but not least was final touch ups and adding all of the parts left off till the very end.

CONCLUSION

This figure was an A+ in my book. It was a relatively easy one to paint, the parts fit very well and it has a dramatic presentation. ■

Modelspec

Miniatures PMC 1:9 scale Waffen SS Machine Gunner
Item No. PMC- 9001

Paint Used:

Vallejo Acrylics unless noted otherwise

Face	Base Colour: Brown Sand Shadows: Brown Sand + Burnt Cadmium Red (Deep Shadow-added Black Red) Highlights: Base + Basic Skintone
Anorak	Base: Tamiya Field Grey, Khaki Drab Highlights: Base colour mix + Tamiya Flesh and Cockpit Green Shadows: Base + Flat Black
Trousers	Tamiya Field Grey and Khaki Drab with more Khaki Drab added than the Anorak colour
Tunic	Vallejo Dark Grey and German Field Grey with a bit of German Uniform Highlight: Base + Sunny Skintone Shadow: Base + Flat Black
Fur	English Uniform, German Camouflage Medium Brown, US Field Drab, Yellow Ochre Highlights: Khaki, German Camouflage Beige, Iraqi Sand (in varying amounts)
Leather	Base: Flat Black Highlight worn areas with Leather Brown and Orange Brown. Unfinished edges with Brown Sand and Orange Brown
Metallics	Aluminium parts are painted with Citadel Boltgun Metal (you can mix Black and Dark Prussian Blue with Boltgun Metal to achieve different metallic shades)
MG 42	Humbrol Metalcote Gunmetal (buffing)
Ammunition	Bullet casing: Model Master Olive Drab mixed with Gold Printer's Ink Belt Links: Humbrol Gunmetal

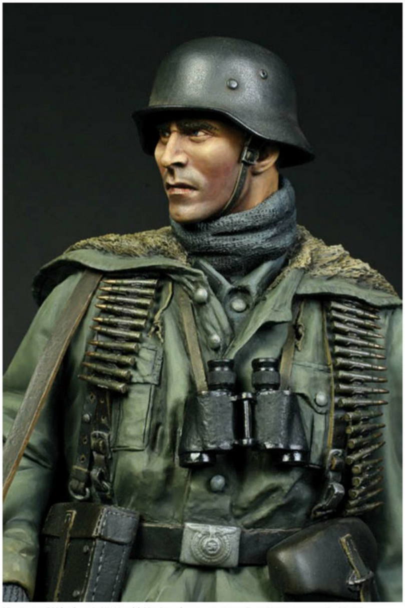
✓ Excellent sculpting and detail; dramatic presentation; good fit; easy to assemble.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

Miniatures PMC products are available online from their website miniaturespmc.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



Miniatures PMC 1:9 scale Waffen SS Machine Gunner is an excellent figure – easy to build and interesting to paint.

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SQUADRON EA

The Editor makes a return trip to Dallas Texas for Squadron EagleQuest XXI.

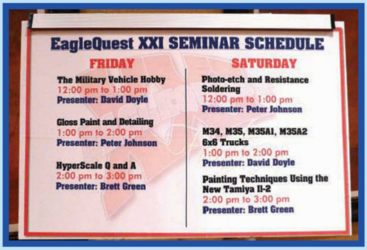
After first visiting Squadron EagleQuest XIX in 2010, I was very pleased to be invited back for this year's show.

Squadron EagleQuest has its origins in Mastercon, which was established by VLS in 1992 as a yearly competition and social gathering over the American Labor Day weekend. Squadron continued this tradition following its acquisition of VLS in early 2007, moving the event to Dallas, close to its head office and warehouse.

Although visitors were undoubtedly excited about the competition and seminars, the priority on Friday morning was the Squadron Open House. The prize on offer to Premium Pass holders was a 40% discount on all stock in Squadron's cavernous (and mercifully air-conditioned) warehouse. The rush was on, with Squadron supplying shopping trolleys for this one-day styrene shopping spree. Office staff were pressed into service as checkout operators while the shoppers piled up their plastic plunder. In addition to the hefty discount, Squadron offered free shipping for purchases – very convenient for interstate travellers.

Meanwhile, back at the Embassy Suites hotel, the tables were filling with high quality models in competition. Categories were open to aircraft, armour, figures, dioramas, cars and more, for both senior and junior modellers.

The awards are not decided by a panel of judges, but by the entrants themselves. Multiple Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are awarded based on the popular vote. Major prizes, including the impressive "Big Eagle" Master's Trophy, are decided after a run-off between the best models decided in each category. These major trophies are voted on during the course of the Saturday night banquet. A number of special categories were awarded on the night too, including this year's theme, "Fantasy", the Squadron Award for Best Scratch Built Entry, Best Camouflage, Tamiya Award, Squadron Creations Award for the best use of a Squadron product and Best Basic Division Entry.



EagleQuest XXI SEMINAR SCHEDULE

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Military Vehicle Hobby 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Presenter: David Doyle	Photo-etch and Resistance Soldering 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Presenter: Peter Johnson
Gloss Paint and Detailing 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Presenter: Peter Johnson	M34, M35, M35A1, M35A2 6x6 Trucks 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Presenter: David Doyle
HyperScale Q and A 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Presenter: Brett Green	Painting Techniques Using the New Tamiya Il-2 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Presenter: Brett Green

I was also again pleased to see the number of junior modellers at the banquet and in the competition. A number of younger visitors in attendance were inspired to declare their intention to build a model for the show next year too.

Six seminars were held over the course of the two-day event, including David Doyle's military vehicle presentations, live demonstrations conducted by renowned automotive modeller Peter Johnson, while I spoke about the state of the hobby, HyperScale history and also conducted a live airbrush demonstration, using a compressor and tools supplied by Squadron and Jef Verswyvsel's own Iwata airbrush!

Friday night saw the Welcome Reception hosted by Squadron's President, Mike McMahon. This was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow visitors, but it also saw the voting for the 2013 EagleQuest Grand Marshall. This piece of business was hilarious at times, thanks to the antics of Hal Sanford and the long-serving EagleQuest committee.

A new feature for this year was the display of a number of military vehicles on the Saturday. Lined up in the car park right outside the venue

GLEQUEST XXI

EMBASSY SUITES
HOTEL

Squadron President Mike McMahon opens the proceedings at Saturday night's Banquet.

Hal Sanford works the crowd on Friday night during the voting for the new EagleQuest Grand Marshall.

Prolific author David Doyle with his wife Denise.

was an impressive selection including a rare Austin Champ, a Jeep, a Saladin armoured car and more.

Saturday night's Banquet was fun too. Once again, despite a daunting number of awards to present, the proceedings were efficient and entertaining. The raffle is a highlight of the show, with some of the best of Squadron's products on offer in a range of ticket prices. Drawing the tickets and presenting the prizes on Saturday night proved to be hilarious.

EagleQuest is nowhere near the scale of an IPMS Nationals, but its compact size affords the atmosphere of a family reunion to this friendly show. EagleQuest is also very well organised. The venue used in 2012 and over the last few years, the Embassy Suites resort, was comfortable and had all the facilities you could ask for.

Visitors can walk in and view the models for free, but registered pass holders get great value for money including the 40% discount during the Squadron Open House spending spree, full access to all the seminars, a raffle ticket, a book, complimentary food and beverages, and more.

Keep an eye out for news of Squadron EagleQuest XXII in 2013 – it will be well worth a visit!

Brett Green – June 2012

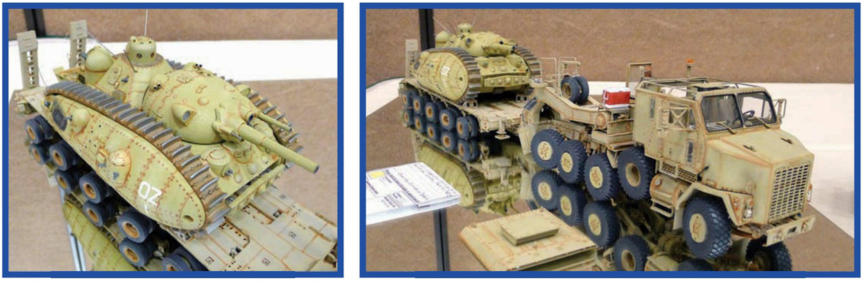
I would particularly like to thank Mike McMahon, the staff of MMD Squadron and the competition organisers for their remarkable hospitality during my visit to EagleQuest XXI.

The competition is judged not by a committee but by the visitors.

Junior modellers receive their awards at the Banquet.

Jim Wechsler looks pensive as he checks in to the show on Thursday afternoon.

Automotive modeller Peter Johnson demonstrates gloss painting techniques.



The Fantasy these led to some interesting subjects. Here is the 1:35 scale Tasca TG-1A Koyoka on the back of HobbyBoss' M1070 + M1000 combination.

Roden's 1:35 scale 1920 Rolls Royce Mk.I Armoured Car finished with Trakz resin wheels. Markings place this as in Irish service.

The M22 Locust is rarely seen. This is the 1:35 scale Commanders resin kit built straight from the box.

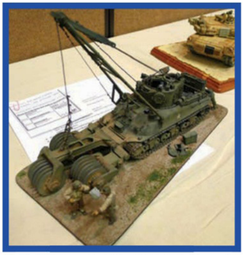
This 1:35 scale T16 Light Tank is from Commanders too.

It did not take long for Showcase Models Australia's 1:35 scale Bushmaster to cross the Pacific in time for EagleQuest XXI.

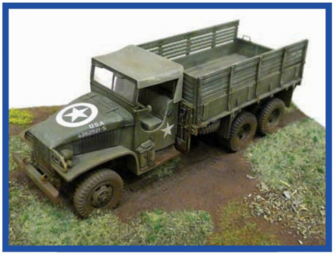
Land Wasser Schlepper by HobbyBoss in 1:35 scale.

A Vietnam War M113 in 1:35 scale.

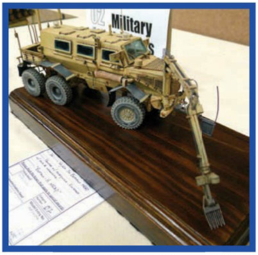
This impressive diorama featured a downed 1:32 scale Zero.



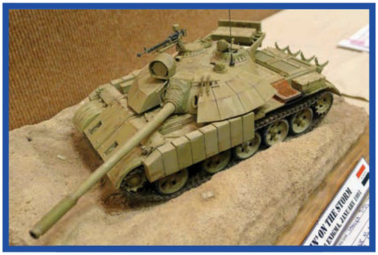
Jim Wechsler's impressive 1:35 scale M32 with Earthworm mine roller was at the show and will feature in a future issue of MMI.



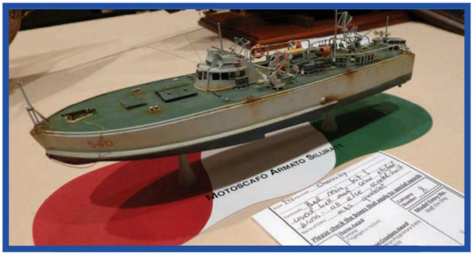
A very tidy Tamiya 1:35 scale 2.5 ton 6x6 truck.



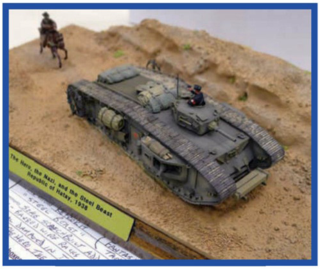
Not the Bronco kit! This is the Vajra resin 1:35 scale Buffalo MRAP.



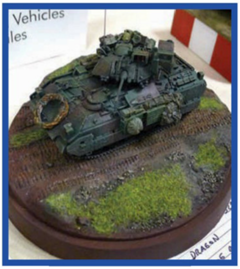
Tamiya's new 1:35 scale T-55 Enigma was already in competition here.


Motoscafo Armato Silurante

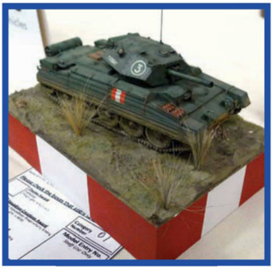
This 1:72 scale patrol boat from Choroszy was described on the entry card as a "bad resin kit"!


The Hero, the Nazi, and the Steel Beast
Republic of Hatay, 1938

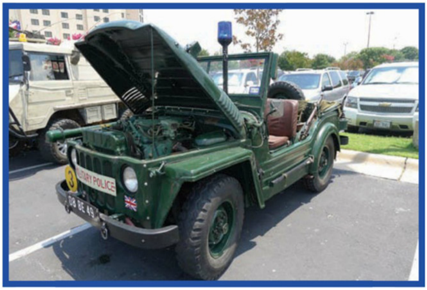
Another Fantasy entrant – "Steel Beast" in small scale with Indiana Jones in hot pursuit.



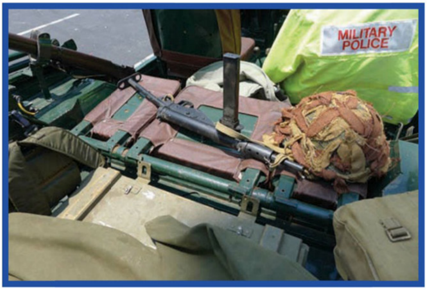
Amongst the impressive small-scale entries was this Dragon 1:72 Bradley AFV with resin stowage from Black Dog.



Crusader in the grass!



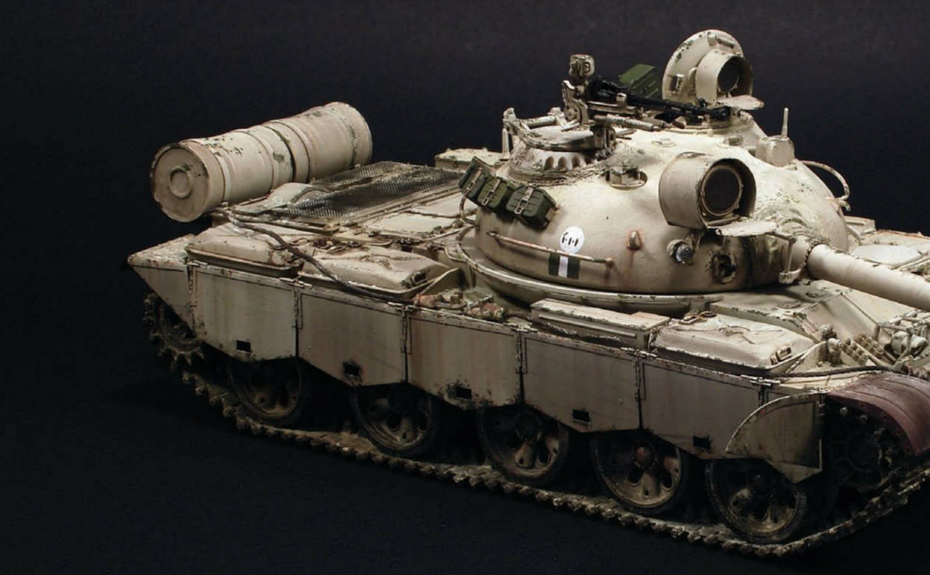
An interesting selection of display vehicles attended on the Sunday of the show. This is an Austin Champ.


MILITARY POLICE

A Sten gun and British para helmet sitting in the back of the Champ.

FEATURE ARTICLE: Trumpeter 1:35 T-62 Model 1972 • Kit No. 0377

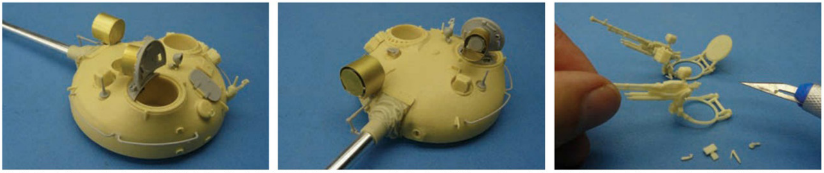
MIG Productions 1:35 Iraqi T-62 Conversion • Item No. MP35-374



CUSTOM T-62

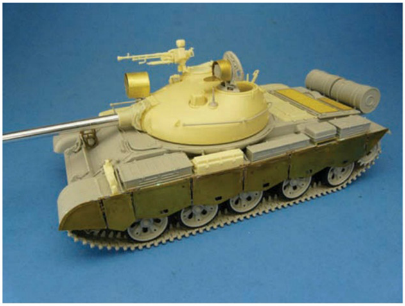
INTRODUCTION
BY ZACHARY SEX

The Iraqi armed forces underwent major expansion in the early 1980s. Having fought a protracted guerrilla war against its own Kurdish population during the early 1970s, it now found itself in a massive drawn out struggle against Ayatollah Khomeni's Iran. While Brazilian, Chinese, French and East European weaponry flooded into the Iraqi armouries, the mainstay of its tank forces remained the Soviet T-55, T-62 and T-72. Although the T-55 and Chinese T-69 copies were the most numerous Soviet design MBTs in use, the Iraqis also made use of several hundred T-62s of various types. This low slung sleek MBT with its 115mm main armament became a very popular tank not only in the Iraqi armoury but with other Arab nations such as Algeria, Egypt and Syria. The Iraqi tank that interested me most was a converted early variant that was modified using the early T-62 model. This originally came with a smooth a counter sunk loader's hatch that the Iraqis replaced by roughly welding on the DSKH mount and hatch from a T-55. Added to this was a set of Chinese saw tooth side skirts, essentially a stretched set based on those used on the T-69 already provided to Iraq. Other modifications included a set of T-72 style live tracks, modified stowage boxes and Russian track tighteners. Having discussed producing this conversion set with Adam Wilder (then of MIG Productions), we decided to embark on this exciting conversion project. Adam designed the intricate etched side skirts while I set to modifying the Trumpeter turret. To this end Mike Mummy's reference photos of a preserved modifies Iraqi T-62 turret were of great assistance. Mike knows his way around Iraqi tanks as he served with the U.S Marine Corps in Iraq in 1991. Having constructed the master with the great aid and assistance of MIG Productions top man François Verdier I now set about constructing the conversion kit using Trumpeters late model T-62 variant as the donor kit for my good friend José. ▶

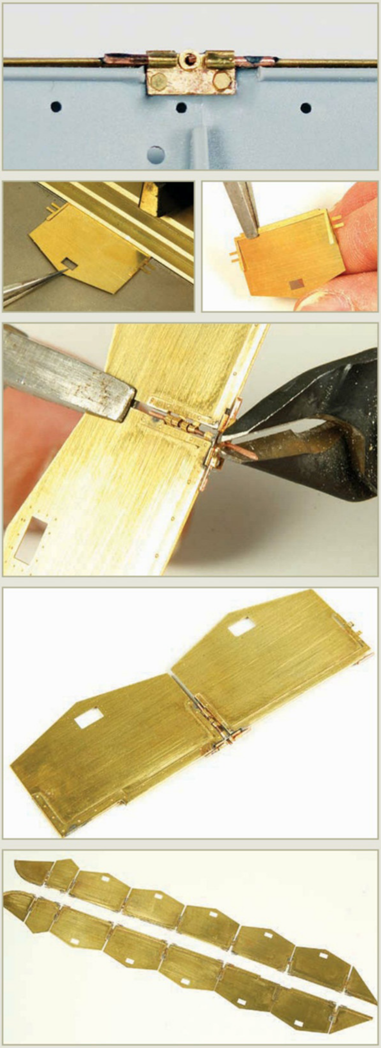


Step One involved the construction of the MIG Productions turret with its fittings. The Chinese copy of the Russian DSHK is a complex production in itself and visual references of the real thing will help. Also the grab handles on the right hand side of the turret are lowered to make allowance for the four spare DSHK mounted beside the loaders hatch. A number of these modified T-62 had an aerial behind the loader's hatch, which I included. However, this is is optional. (Zack Sex)

Zachary Sex, Adam Wilder and José Brito team up to transform, detail, paint and weather Trumpeter's 1:35 scale T-62 Model 1972 using MIG Productions' recent multimedia Iraqi conversion.



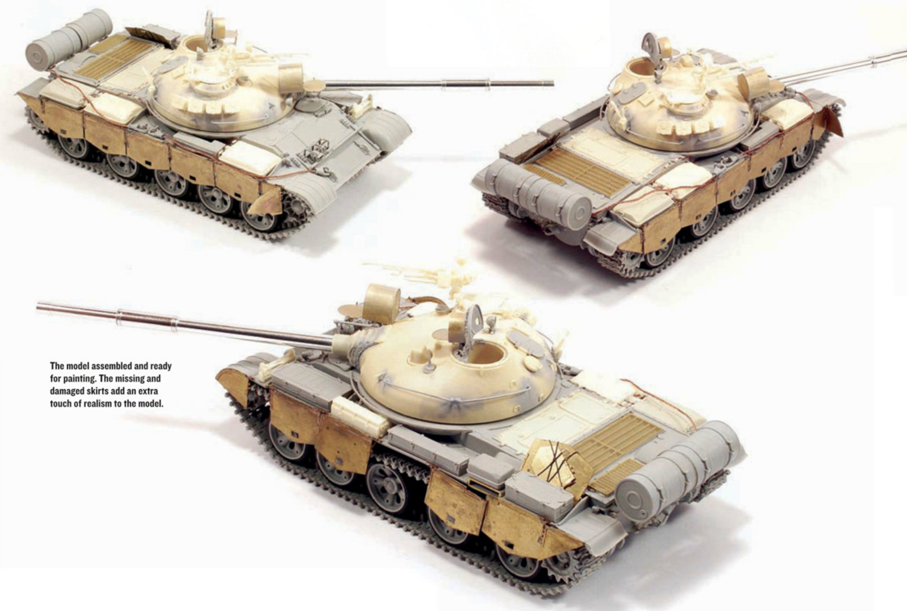
Step Two involved assembling the lower hull. The tricky part of this construction is making sure that there is enough space for the Chinese style side skirts as Trumpeters running board is rather narrow and if you avail of Friulmodel T-72 style tracks they will not fit, Trumpeters offering in the kit are about a millimetre narrower in width and with some judicious sanding of the torsion bar attachment points these will fit. Be warned that the side skirts when glued to the running board will be extremely snug to the tracks. With wheels in position, I then assembled Trumpeter's tracks in three major sections for ease of painting by José. Adam's etched side skirts were then test fitted for space and I added the running board fuel cells and zip boxes. Included in this conversion are three T-62 style fuel cells and MIG Productions fuel line connections. These are assembled easily enough and add realistic detail to the kit. The final addition consisted of the Iraqi lightly armoured light covers that fit around the Commander's light and main gun infra red lamp and add a distinctly Iraqi flavour to this conversion. (Zack Sex)



The side skirts fitted into the Iraqi T-54s, T-55s and T-62s give these vehicles an exclusive appearance separating them from the many others still in use around the world today. These features were one of the primary details that prompted MIG Productions to design a kit for converting Trumpeter's T-62 model into one of these interesting AFVs.

When searching for reference photos of Iraqi T-62s in preparation for this project I quickly discovered that these details got damaged and easily lost. This is why I quickly decided to design these details in photo-etch (PE). Offering these skirts in PE would allow the hobbyist to add authentic damage making these fragile details genuine on the completed replica.

I would recommend completely assembling the skirts as instructed in the kit step-by-step. Having the skirts assembled will make them easier to attach onto the model. If you want missing sections I would simply complete all of the segments then attach each of them as seen on the example in this article. (Adam Wilder)



The model assembled and ready for painting. The missing and damaged skirts add an extra touch of realism to the model.

CONSTRUCTION AND PHOTO-ETCHED DETAILING BY ZACK SEX AND ADAM WILDER

Step One involved the construction of the MIG Productions turret with its fittings. The Chinese copy of the Russian DSHK is a complex production in itself and visual references of the real thing will help. Also the grab handles on the right hand side of the turret are lowered to make allowance for the four spare DSHK mounted beside the loaders hatch. A number of these modified T-62s had an aerial behind the loader's hatch, which I included. However, this is optional.

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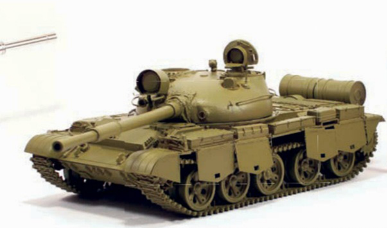
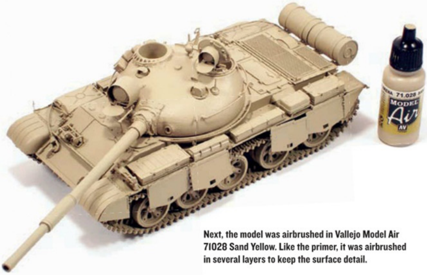
The MIG Productions set combined with the Trumpeter kit delivers a very interesting and accurate version of this very famous tank. The fit of all the elements is very good and very soon we can start the painting process.



Having parts in resin, photo etch and others scratched in plastic, a good primer will be necessary. As usual my models are primed in Vallejo acrylic primers. In this case I used the Vallejo German Dark Yellow RAL 7028.



Next, the model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71028 Sand Yellow. Like the primer, it was airbrushed in several layers to keep the surface detail.

PAINTING BY JOSÉ BRITO

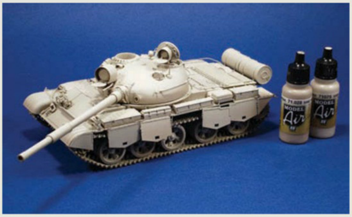
The MIG Productions set combined with the Trumpeter kit delivers a very interesting and accurate version of this very famous tank. The fit of all the elements is very good and very soon we can start the painting process. The missing and damaged skirts add an extra touch of realism to the model.

Having parts in resin, photo-etch and others scratched in plastic, a good primer will be necessary. As usual, my models are primed in Vallejo acrylic primers. In this case I used the Vallejo German Dark Yellow RAL 7028. Vallejo primers dry very fast and make the surface very smooth, ideal for airbrushing. They must be airbrushed in several layers in order to keep the surface detail.

Once the primer was completely dry, the model was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71028 Sand Yellow. Like the primer, it was airbrushed in several thin layers just to keep the surface detail.

Zenith transformation was achieved by airbrushing the model in Vallejo Model Air 71028 Sand Yellow and Vallejo Model Air 71075 Sand. Once again, airbrushed in very well thinned layers.

Details were brush painted in several colours in order to add a more visible colour variation. To get a more realistic look, several colours must be used. ▶



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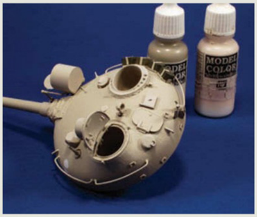
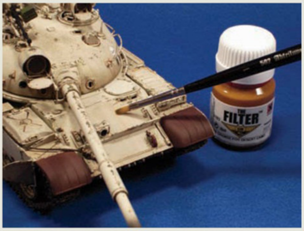


Several details were brush painted in several colours in order to add a more visible colour variation. To get a more realistic look, several colours must be used.

Time for weathering and finishing.



We really must add some colour variation in order to gat a more realistic and visually interesting model. A thin coat of MIG Productions Filter 119 Orange for Desert Camo was applied over the entire model. In some spots the process can be repeated, like that we can get subtle variations.

MIG productions
STANDARD RUST EFFECTS
75 ml
502 Abteilung

MIG productions
DARK WASH

Smaller details were also picked in MIG Productions 502 Abteilung Oil Colours and MIG Productions Wash solutions.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING BY JOSÉ BRITO

Time for the weathering and finishing. I wanted to represent a tank with some battle scars and with a veteran look. The weathering started by applying thousands of small scratches. The process started with the help of a small sponge and ended with help of a very fine brand new brush. Several colours were used in order to achieve a more realistic look.

Being a monochromatic model painted in an overall desert sand colour, we really must add some colour variation in order to get a more realistic and visually interesting model. A heavily thinned coat of MIG Productions Filter 119 Orange for Desert Camo was applied all over the model. In some spots the process can be repeated, so that we can get subtle variations.

Smaller details were also picked out in MIG Productions' 502 Abteilung Oil Colours and MIG Productions' Wash solutions. Their huge range is ideal for all kind of weathering and detail work.

The exhaust was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black.

The clear parts were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials' Rocket Odourless solution glue.

The dusty look was achieved using MIG Productions' pigments. Several colours must be used in order to get a more realistic look. The colours must be accurate and in the right spots. Also, we must not overdo this process; otherwise our model will look inaccurate and unrealistic.

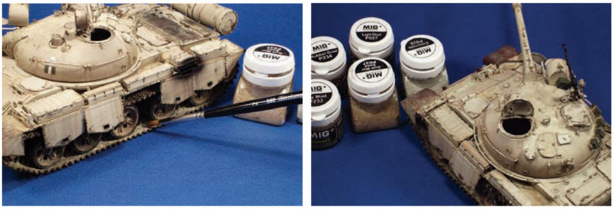
The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer. We simply apply several drops over the pigments by brush and let it dry without touching. During this process the model will turn very dark ▶

Model Air
71.057

The exhaust was airbrushed in Vallejo Model Air 71057 Black.

DELUXE
ROKET
ODOURLESS

The clear parts were glued in place with the help of Deluxe Materials Rocket Odourless solution glue.



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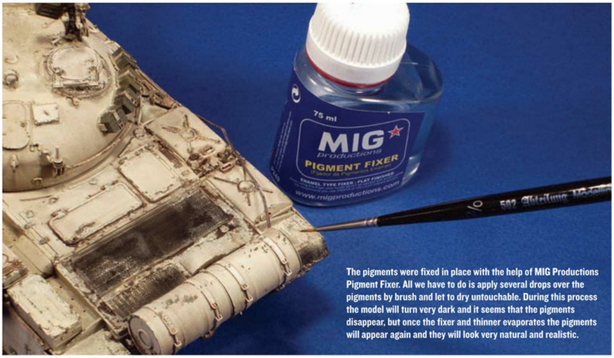
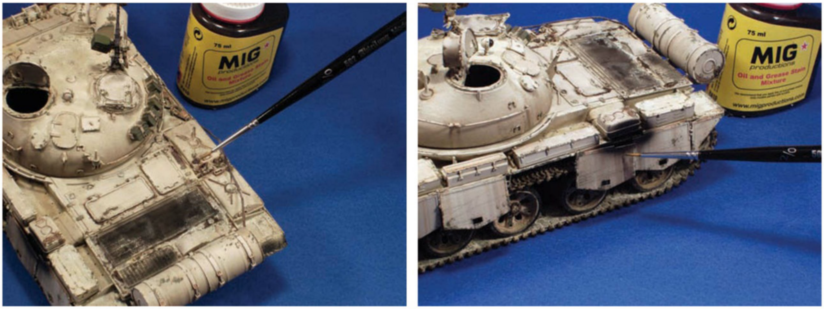
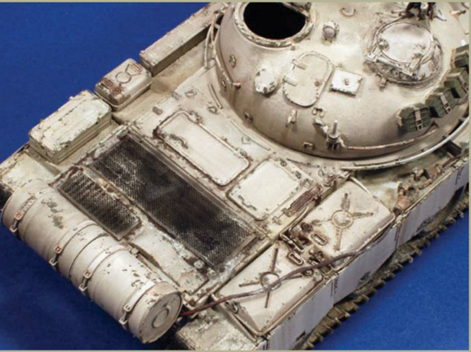
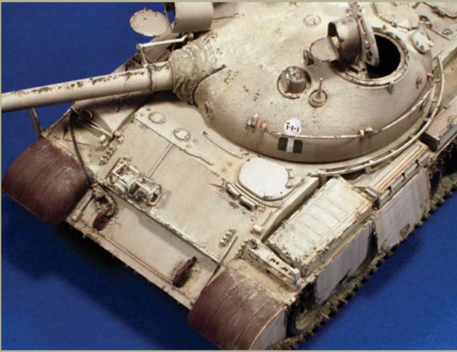


The pigments were fixed in place with the help of MIG Productions Pigment Fixer. All we have to do is apply several drops over the pigments by brush and let to dry untouchable. During this process the model will turn very dark and it seems that the pigments disappear, but once the fixer and thinner evaporates the pigments will appear again and they will look very natural and realistic.



MIG Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture was applied in several spots, including the exhaust previously airbrushed in black. All these simple techniques combine to greatly improve the final appearance of the model.





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MIG Productions Oil and Grease Stain Mixture were applied in several spots, including the exhaust previously airbrushed in black. All those simple techniques combined really improve the model and turn it very realistic and accurate.

CONCLUSION

This was a very interesting and refreshing project. World War Two still seems to be the main focus in the modelling world, but local and modern conflicts are starting to get the attention from leading model companies. MIG Productions is one of such companies,.

This new set is more than welcome by all the modern conflicts enthusiasts. ■

Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 T-62 Model 1972 Kit No. 0377
MIG Productions 1:35 Iraqi T-62 Conversion Kit No. MP35-374

Materials and paints used

Deluxe Materials glue solutions
Injected plastic
Resin parts
Plastic card
Metal parts
Vallejo primers, acrylics, washes, pigments and thinners
MIG Productions oils, washes, filters and thinners
Graphite soft pencil

References used

Several internet sites and forums

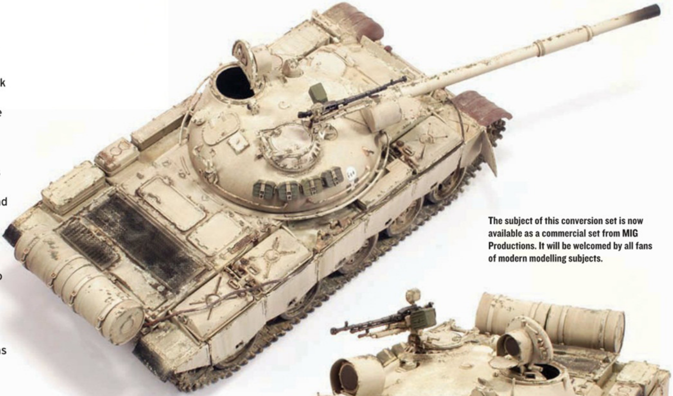
✓ Great fit; high quality resin casting; accurate photo-etched parts; an overall refreshing set.

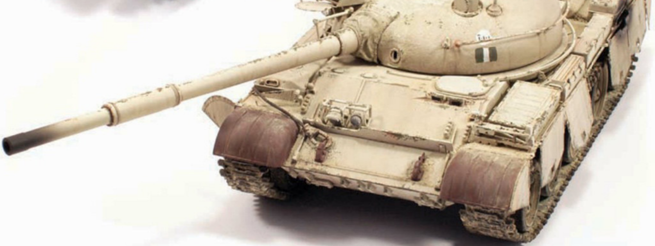
✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

MIG Productions are available in the UK from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

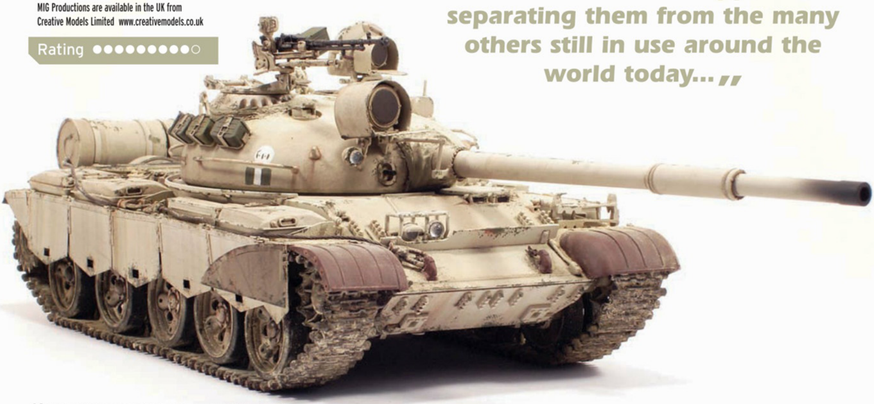
Rating ●●●●●●●●●○





The subject of this conversion set is now available as a commercial set from MIG Productions. It will be welcomed by all fans of modern modelling subjects.

> "The side skirts fitted on Iraqi T-54s, T-55s and T-62s give these vehicles an exclusive appearance separating them from the many others still in use around the world today..."



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29 Union Street, Halifax, HX1 1PR

DRAGON 1/35 SCALE

DN6552	BEF machine gun team	£15.99
DN6543	Panzer III Ausf J	£49.99
DN6728	Ardelt 8.8cm Waffentrager	£45.00
DN6761	OPEL MAULTIER	£47.50
DN6739	Sdkfz 10/4 w/flak 30	£45.00

HOBBYBOSS 1/35 SCALE

HBB82441	Merkava IIID	£36.99
HBB82477	Hungarian Toldi	£23.99
HBB82489	French EBR-10	£25.99
HBB82491	Sdkfz 254 Scout car	£25.99
HBB82492	Bergpanther D Flak	£36.99

BRONCO 1/35 SCALE

CB35067	17/25pdr desert crew	£11.99
CB35068	British Chaffee	£39.99
CB35100	'Buffalo' 6x6 MPCV	£49.99
CB35033	Hungarian Zrinyi	TBA
CB35111	British Bofors AA Gun	TBA

ACADEMY 1/35 SCALE

AC13230	Hetzer Late version	£19.99

TRUMPETER 1/35 SCALE

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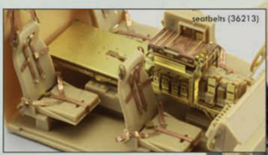

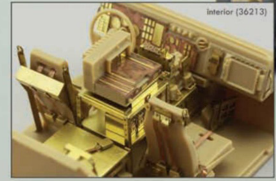

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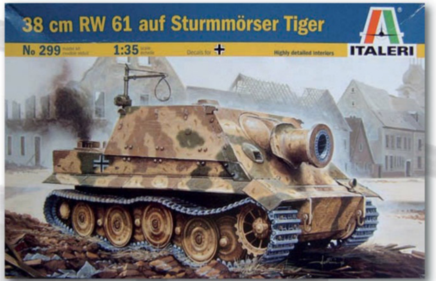


STURMTIGER REPRISE

Graham Tetley recalls building Italeri's 1:35 scale Sturmtiger back in the 1990s. How is it holding up today?

Italeri first released their Sturmtiger kit around 1998 and I built it at the time. We had the Tamiya kit back then and AFV Club's version had yet to appear, but this re-release is exactly as it was way back then. So how does it stack up?

Comprising 366 parts on four sprues, it is actually not that bad. You get a set of link and length tracks, a detailed interior, four shells, a one-piece engine and moulded on zimmerit. Detail is good, if a little soft in places, and there is no flash present on my example. Some minor parts have sink marks in them but they are nowhere where they can be seen. The tracks are another matter though.

The lower hull started life in Italeri's prototype Tiger kit and has been used in all of their Tiger kits, but using separate drive and idler hull parts in each one. This creates a problem in that their fit is not brilliant and you will need filler to hide the joins. I recommend that you get these in place and then fit the front glacis, rear plate, sidewalls and engine deck (in that order) to get everything straight and true. The one-piece engine block is somewhat toy-like and, whilst you can build the hatch on the engine deck to open, it may be best to leave it shut if you want more detail.

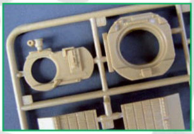
An advantage (or disadvantage depending on your viewpoint) is that the hull plates and fenders have Zimmerit moulded on. Whilst this saves you the expense of buying a set, it is very regular so can't be chipped or damaged easily. A point to note though is that there is no zimmerit-free option provided, so it is all or nothing.

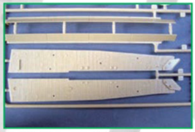
Moving on to the running gear, the detail is basic but sufficient. The tracks are link and length with separate links being provided (minus the tooth guide – it is a separate part) for going around the sprockets. The tracks join by means of a flat tab, which does cause minor problems when wrapping them around the sprocket and idler, but they do work. You will note that the running surfaces are littered with knock-out pin marks but most will not be seen on this finished item and those that are visible will be easy to remove.

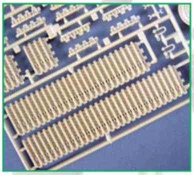
This beast comes with a credible interior thanks to the large hatches. The basics are there to make it look busy and include the mortar breech, shell stowage racks, bow machine gun, and a very basic driver's compartment. Attached to the back of the superstructure is the basic winch for lifting the shells into the vehicle. Markings are limited to two Balkenkreuz for the vehicle and the rest are for the shells.

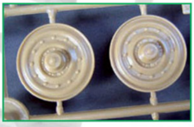
This will be a quick, easy build and ideal as an introduction to a more complicated kit. It is perhaps not aimed at the experienced modeller market, but is ideal for a beginner moving to an intermediate modeller or, alternatively, just a fun break from today's mega-kits. It does not have the finesse of Tamiya's kit or the detail of the more up-to-date AFV Club version, but it does make into a surprisingly likeable model when built. ■

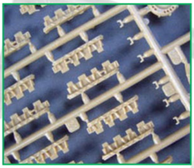
Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

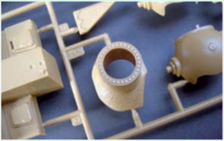

The breech detail.

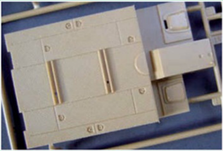

The hull side come pre-zimmerited.

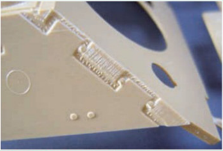

The track lengths.

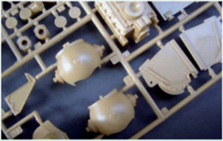

Road wheel detail

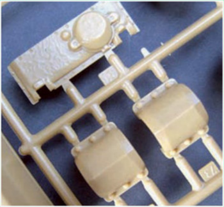

The individual tracks and separate guide teeth

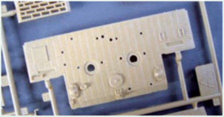

The big bad gun tube.

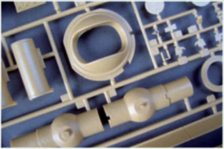

Detail on the hull floor plate.


Weld and torch cut detail on the superstructure.


The milling on the ball mount is excellent. Note also the engine block.


Cast texture on the hull parts.


The rear hull plate showing the zimmerit.


The gun mount and tube.

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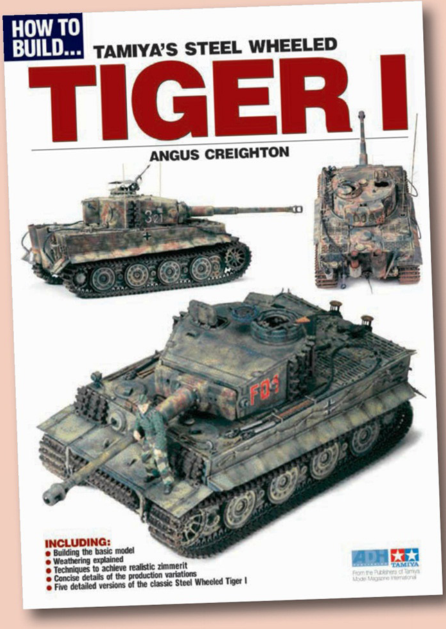
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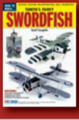

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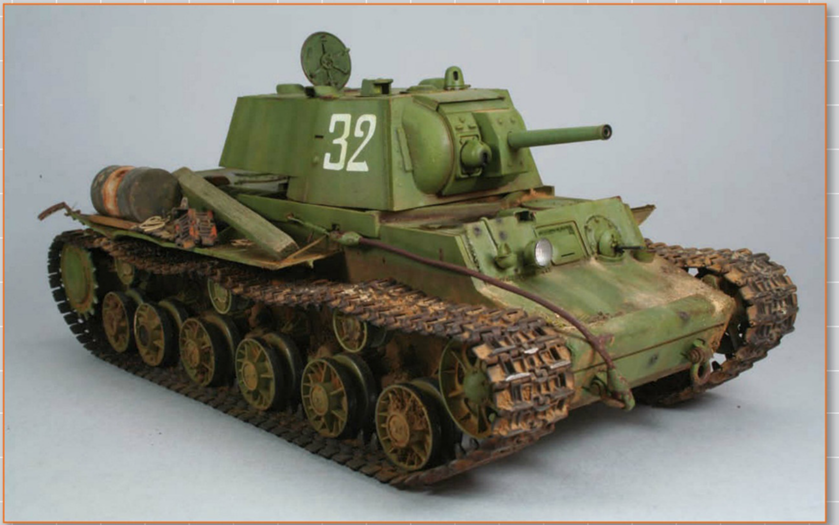


STALIN'S TORCH

Javier Redondo Giminez kitbashes two Trumpeter kits to deliver a 1:35 scale KV-8 flamethrower tank.

From the outset, the USSR showed great interest in the development of armoured flamethrowers, initially modifying the lightly armoured T-26 with mediocre results, as witnessed in the Winter War with Finland.

By the end of 1941, the Chelyabinsk tank factory developed several projects to mount a flamethrower in the heavy KV. Finally, they designed a modification to mount the ATO 41 flamethrower in the turret, located coaxial to the barrel. The space occupied by the flamethrower prevented the proper use of KV standard 76.2 mm gun, so this had to be replaced by the 45mm Model 32/38 gun cleverly concealed inside a false longer tube simulating the barrel of the 76.2.

The ATO 41 flamethrower could launch three short bursts of a flammable mixture of kerosene and petrol every ten seconds over a range varying from 60 to 100 meters with devastating results. There was an initial demonstration of the weapon in front of Stalin, who immediately granted his approval for mass production in early 1942.

Called the KV-8, the vehicle was immediately pressed into service to support the infantry. New Chemical Warfare Battalions were each made up from KV-8s and 11 OT-34s, the flamethrower version of the versatile T-34.

Although these battalions were intended for offensive roles to support the infantry, neutralizing bunkers and strong points, their psychological impact was such that they were used randomly in multiple functions.

Following the end of armoured KV flamethrower production, some KV-1S were fitted with the new ATO-42 flamethrower that could shoot four or five bursts of fire in ten seconds with a maximum range increased to 120 meters. The rest were installed in the new modified Ognmetny Tank T-34/85 (Armoured Flamethrower Tank 34/85) OT-34/85.

THE MODEL

My KV-8 is a hybrid of two 1:35 scale kits from Trumpeter. This Chinese manufacturer has released just about every version of the Soviet KV tank, and little needs to be added to these kits for an excellent representation. They are very good quality at a reasonable price – highly recommended.

Kit No. 00358 is the KV-1 model 1942 with reinforced hull at an angle and welded turret armour. In addition to the long ZIS-5 76.2 mm gun, it is possible to mount an optional KV-8 flamethrower.

When I decided to set up my "torch of Stalin" and I pulled out all my available documentation, I found that the 102 examples of the KV-1 Model 42 did not have the turret armour increased, but rather the first 25 units of KV-8S.

For maximum historical accuracy accuracy, I decided to use the turret from Trumpeter kit no. 00356, KV-1 Model 1941 With Small Turret. I discarded the kit mantlet and the F-32 gun, replacing it instead with the ATO-41 flamethrower and 45 mm cannon as described above above. All these substitutions fitted without any difficulty because all parts of the different Trumpeter models are interchangeable.

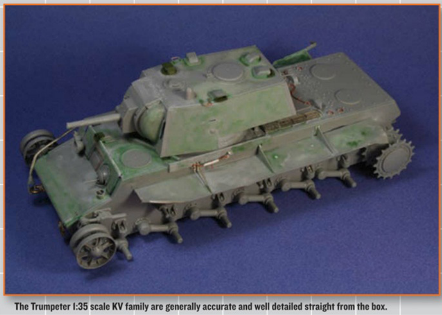
Recently, Trumpeter actually released a new 1:35 scale KV-8 so you will not have to go to the trouble of kitbashing these models for an accurate KV flamethrower tank!

Detail of the model is good straight from the box so it is not essential to add aftermarket items. It really depends how much you like super detailing your models. Throw enough money at a kit and it can always be improved.

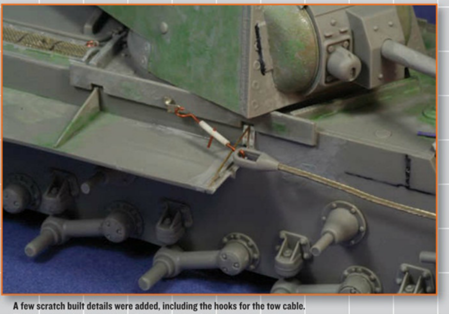
In this case, I only used Friul metal tracks, an Aber photo-etched detail set specific for the KV, and a brass rings from the same brand.

Construction

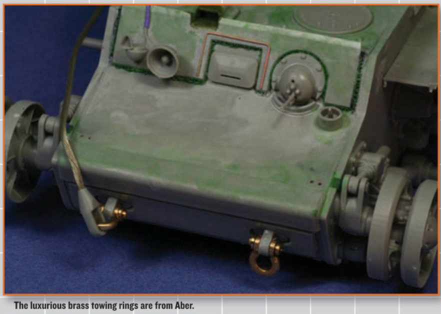
Construction of the model was very straightforward. The kit was mainly built straight from the box with damaged fenders and a few key after market items.



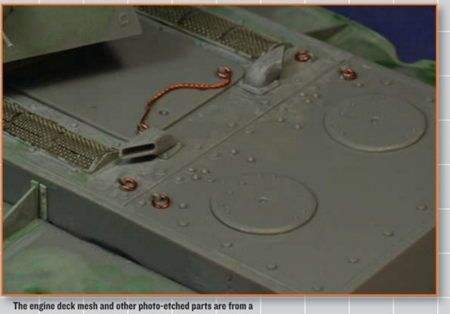
The Trumpeter 1:35 scale KV family are generally accurate and well detailed straight from the box.



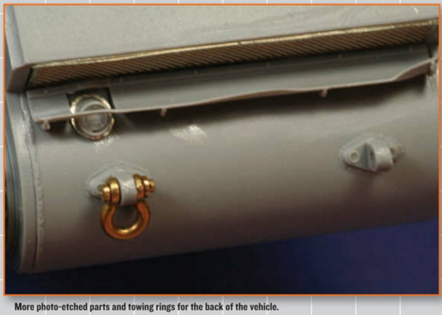
A few scratch built details were added, including the hooks for the tow cable. These were made from copper wire and plastic tube.



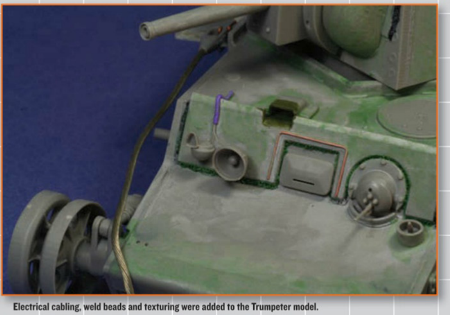
The luxurious brass towing rings are from Aber.



The engine deck mesh and other photo-etched parts are from a separate Aber set designed specifically for the Trumoeter KV tanks.



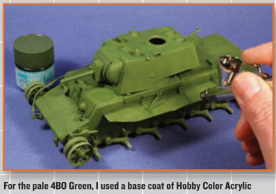
More photo-etched parts and towing rings for the back of the vehicle.



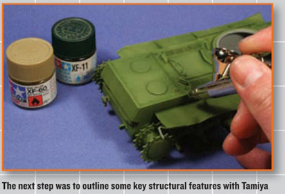
Electrical cabling, weld beads and texturing were added to the Trumpeter model.

Painting

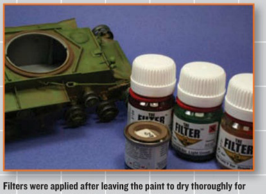
For this model I wanted to try a paler shade of Soviet 4BO Green.



For the pale 4BO Green, I used a base coat of Hobby Color Acrylic H422. This looks to be a very appropriate tone for the light colour. The paint was diluted of Tamiya Thinner and applied in repeated thin airbrushed coats.

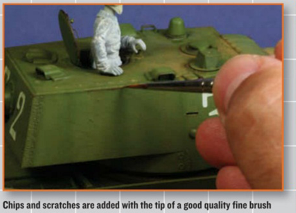


The next step was to outline some key structural features with Tamiya acrylic XF-11 JN Green followed by a sprayed highlighting with Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow of the same brand.

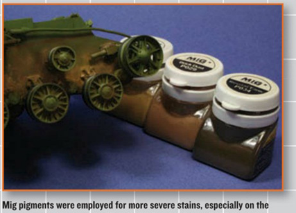


Filters were applied after leaving the paint to dry thoroughly for 24 hours. I started with heavily thinned Humbrol 29 Dark Earth enamel for the lower horizontal zones, and then continued with Sin Industries filters, allowing each layer of filter to dry between applications.

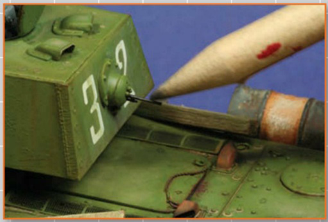
At this point I began to degrade the colour using oil paints to blend in different shades. A wide selection of new tones lends interest and variety to the otherwise monotonous green. Different colours from Abteilung 501's range of oil paints were used for this important task.



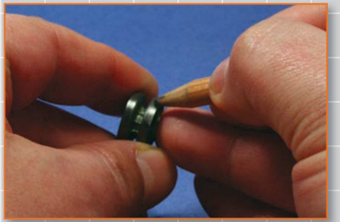
Chips and scratches are added with the tip of a good quality fine brush and Vallejo 302 Dark Rust acrylic paint.



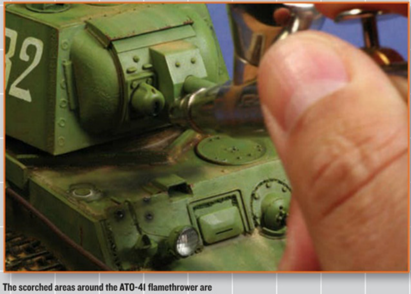
Mig pigments were employed for more severe stains, especially on the lower parts of the chassis. Mig's P034 Russian Earth, P029 Brick Dust and P037 Sand Gulf War were all applied and then fixed in place with Humbrol Thinner dropped onto the pigments.



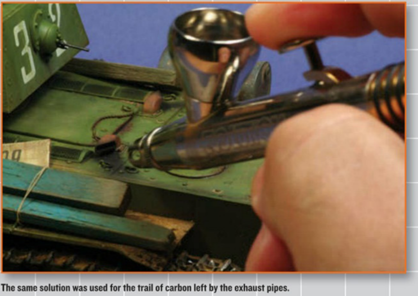
The metallic effects are reproduced with graphite powder applied to the arms with a smudger.



The wheel rims polished by the friction of the tracks may be simulated very accurately by directly applying a soft graphite pencil.

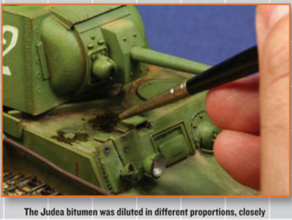


The scorched areas around the ATO-41 flamethrower are depicted airbrushing heavily diluted Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black.

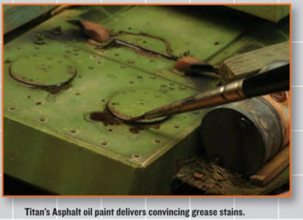


The same solution was used for the trail of carbon left by the exhaust pipes.

Final weathering was applied using Judea bitumen and Titan 80 Asphalt oil paint.



The Judea bitumen was diluted in different proportions, closely mimicking the look of the greasy flammable chemical solution left after the flamethrower has been used.



Titan's Asphalt oil paint delivers convincing grease stains.

Tracks

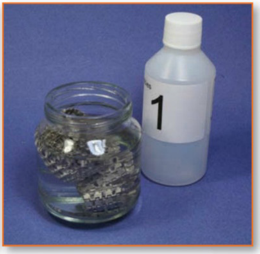
For this project I decided to try "Black Traks" from British company TI Hobbies. This consists of a series of chemical baths that will deliver a very realistic finish for the metal Friul tracks.

The set comprises three 100 ml bottles with their respective chemicals for each stage, plus one instruction sheet in English.

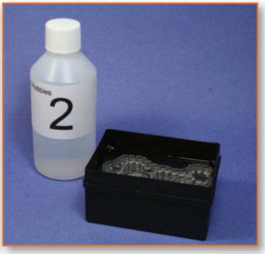
Once the tracks are assembled, the next important step is to wash them with soapy water to remove all traces of grease and dirt from the manufacturing process and subsequent handling during construction. With that done, we put on a cloth over the tracks until they are completely dry. We can speed up the drying process using a hair dryer or projected air from the airbrush. Drying between each step is important to ensure the best results throughout the process.

TiHobbies
1
2
3
FIRST AID PROCEDURES
SPILLAGE

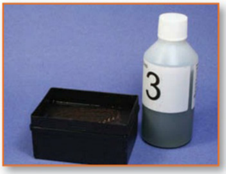
TI Hobbies' Black Traks three-bottle solution



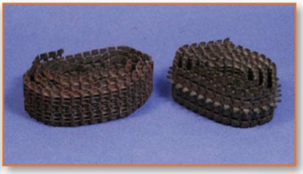
Step 1. – The tracks are immersed for five minutes in solution 1. Afterwards, we remove the tracks and soak them in water before drying them thoroughly.



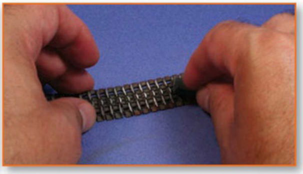
Step 2. – The tracks are now immersed in solution 2 for 1.5 minutes, trying not to overdo that time otherwise the finish will be at risk of being uneven. We again remove the tracks and soak them in water before drying them thoroughly.



Step 3. - This phase is where the colour change takes place. The tracks are immersed for five minutes in Solution 3. If we exceed this time the colour will be darker and if we reduce it will be lighter. Once again, the parts are bathed in water bath and allowed to dry.



Step 4. - The colour acquired by the tracks is very tough and a very realistic tone

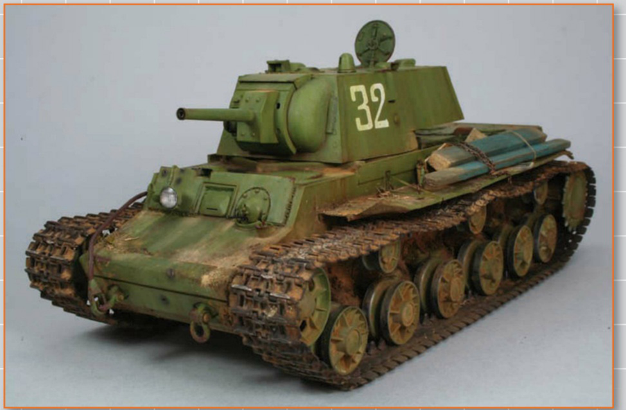


Step 5. - Polish the protruding parts of the links and tracks with a piece of sandpaper. From there, we can work with pigments, oil washes or whatever else we consider appropriate steps to integrate the tracks into the general weathering of the overall vehicle.

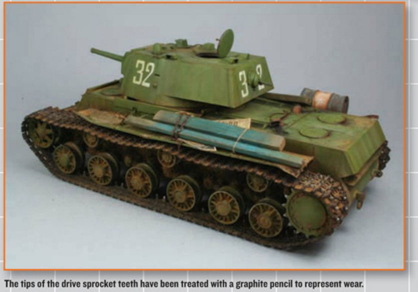
In short, this product offers a very convincing finish and is easy to use. The chemical agents present in the product - selenium, phosphate and caustic soda - do not require more care than household cleaners although you should avoid direct skin contact and inhalation.

The price / quality ratio is good because the product can be reused up to three or four times, as long as you take care not to mix the different solutions and not to put water in them.

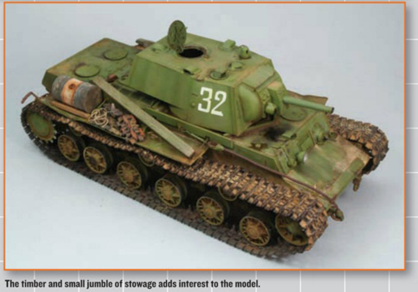
> **"The ATO 41 flamethrower could launch three short bursts of a flammable mixture of kerosene and petrol every ten seconds over a range varying from 60 to 100 meters with devastating results..."**



The metal tracks have been fitted to the vehicle. We have a good view of these thanks to the damaged track guards.



The tips of the drive sprocket teeth have been treated with a graphite pencil to represent wear.



The timber and small jumble of stowage adds interest to the model.

Mini Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 scale KV-8 Flamethrower Kitbash

MATERIALS EMPLOYEES

Trumpeter Kit no. 00356 KV-1 model 1941 small turret
Trumpeter Kit no. 00358 KV-1 model 1942 simplified turret
Aber Item No. G16 - Grills for KV-1 and KV-2
Aber Item No. AB-35R018 - Shackle for Russian tanks KV-1 and KV-2

REFERENCES

KV Technical History & Variants. Neil Stokes.
Air Connection
KV-1 Soviet Heavy Tanks of WW II. Late variants.
Tankograd soviet special nº 2003

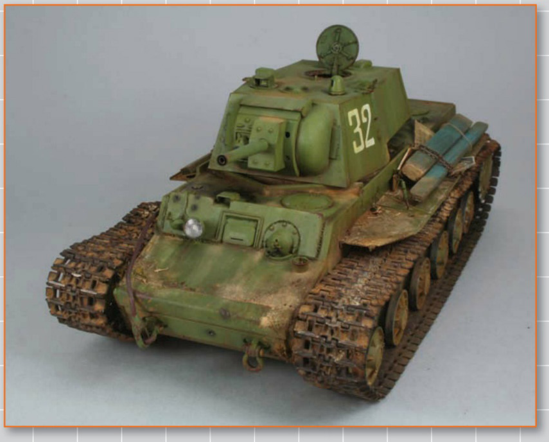
✓ Good detail, good fit; interchangeability between kits.

✗ Solid engine deck vents.

Available from

Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond.

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



Now that Trumpeter has released a 1:35 scale KV-8, it will be even easier to create a KV family flamethrower.

SKP has taken criticism of their previous 1:35 A30 release and upgraded and corrected the kit. **Al Bowie** examines this new improved Challenger.

Challenger MK.VIII (A30)
Upgraded kit
SKP model
1/35

UP TO THE CHALLENGE

The British Army realised early on that their main tanks and anti-tank guns, whilst just adequate in 1939/40, were just not powerful enough when they met the up-gunned Panzer III and IVs.

In 1941 the Tank Board was tasked by the Chiefs of Staff to investigate a heavy High Velocity Tank gun to be fitted to both Infantry and Cruiser tanks. The 17 pdr and the A27 series Cruiser were in development and plans were made to fit a 17 pdr to the A27. Pilot models of a lengthened A27 with a widened centre section to take a large turret were delivered in August 1942 and designated the A30. The vehicle was a compromise that shared mechanical commonality with the Cromwell but suffered a number of teething problems. Production of 200 vehicles commenced in January 1943. Due to various problems such as turret traverse, the Challenger did not enter service until March 1944, not allowing time to develop waterproofing kits for the upcoming invasion. As such they were not used in the Normandy landings with Sherman Fireflies undertaking their role in the Cromwell equipped units

The Challenger was issued to Cromwell equipped Reconnaissance Regiments later in 1944 and it went on to serve with the UK 11 Armd Div, Polish and Czech Forces and was gradually replaced by the Sherman Firefly in British Service.

SKP released the first 1:35 scale injection moulded kit of the A30 a few years ago to mixed reviews and have now upgraded and re-issued the kit, correcting most of the problems of the original. This is a multimedia injection moulded kit with individual resin tracks & detail parts, PE, a metal gun barrel and an injection moulded main body, turret and running gear. The injection moulded parts are in a grey plastic and are finely detailed in the main although some of the parts have flash and large ejector marks. The road wheels have large ejector pin marks on the rears that will be hard to remove but are not visible as the wheels are two-part assemblies. These and the suspension arms are the only real places I found ejection marks that could possibly be seen so it isn't a big deal. The drive sprockets are moulded in resin and care will be needed when removing the casting plug.

Going through the instructions may be quite confusing due to the changes in upgrading the kit. I recommend that you acquaint yourself with the A4 addendum sheet to take advantage of the updated parts, which are mainly related to the tracks, turret, cupola and towing assembly. The kit provides options for the late version, which is called out in the small instruction booklet but no indication of which marking options are late variants is given. I feel the instructions would be better in A4 size but those provided are adequate and clear. The tracks are going to give you grief if you do not like small fiddly parts as they are joined by the smallest resin pins meaning that you will have to fit 496 of these filament thin 2mm long pins to make two runs of 124 links. If that isn't bad enough, you are asked to drill 0.5mm holes in each link (248 plus spares) with three holes to be drilled in each. This will give you workable runs but if you don't want a workable track run just glue the tracks together with a liquid glue to allow for draping like the real thing.

This is a very welcome and affordable release particularly with the current exchange rate and costs the same as a Tamiya Cromwell here. The detail is very good and the kit will build into an accurate replica of this imposing vehicle. It is great to be able to add another missing subject to the collection of British AFV's at an affordable price.

My only reservations are to do with the tracks but if you don't want workable tracks you could just glue them together. The rest of the construction appears straightforward and would be a good introduction kit to multimedia kits.

I applaud SKP for an excellent kit of a neglected subject.

Highly recommended to modellers of British Polish or Czech Armoured subjects – are you up to the challenge? ■

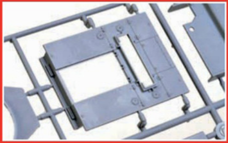
Thanks to SKP for the sample www.skpmodel.eu

Resin individual track links...

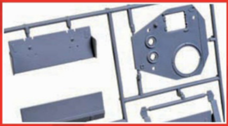
...and the tiny, tiny track pins, greatly magnified in this photo.

Plenty of resin parts.

More resin, including the drive sprockets.

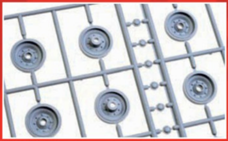


Nicely detailed injection moulded engine deck.



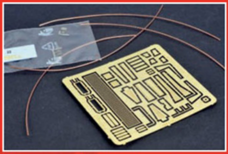
The turret is made up from separate sides and roof.

The lower hull includes separate layers on the sides for the Christie-style suspension.



Road wheel detail.

Turned metal 17 pdr barrel.



More multimedia – photo-etch and copper wire.

Challenger Mk.VIII (A30)
SKP025 1/35
SKP model
www.skpmodel.eu

The kit decal sheet.

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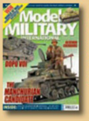

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- GreatWall Hobby 1:35 sWS with Flak 43
- Trumpeter 1:35 Panzerjager Triebwagen
- Dragon 1:35 Jagdpanther
- Sherman Firefly Mk.VC conversion
- Small-scale Cherbourg diorama Pt.5

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- Heavily rebuilt 1:35 Marder II Ausf. D
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- Dragon 1:35 M7 Priest
- Dragon 1:6 Jeep

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- ScaleModelworld 2010 Report
- Alan's heavily rebuilt 1:35 Marder II Ausf. D
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- BaxMod 1:35 Ratel
- Flags and Packs TechGuide

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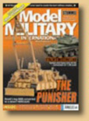

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- Bugle Call 2010 show report
- Italeri 1:35 Biber U-Boat
- Dragon 1:35 Sd.Kfz 251/9 Kanonenwagen
- Italeri 1:35 AB 41
- Snow Technique Tech Guide
- MiniArt 1:35 scale British Valentine

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- MiniArt Su-76M conversion
- 1:35 motorhome conversion
- Hetzer Vignette Tech Guide Pt.1
- Italeri 1:35 GMC Truck and Panzer 38(t)
- Real Model LAV-III LORIT conversion
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- 1:35 scale T-62MI conversion
- Jeff Shiu large scale SS MG 34 gunner
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- Dragon 1:48 Panzerfahre

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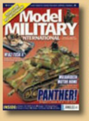

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- Sd.Kfz. 234/3 diorama
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- Dragon's Panzer IV Ausf. G
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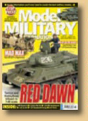

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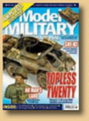

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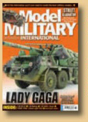

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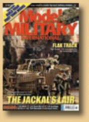

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- Kit Form Services Ferret Mk. 2/3
- Build your first tank model
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- Tristar 1:35 Minitionspanzer I

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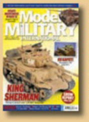

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- Trumpeter KV-8 & Aerosan

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October 6th
Abingdon IPMS Model Show. Larkmead school, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1BB
Open from 10.00-16.00
Adult £3, con/OAP £2
There will be approximately 20 traders, 30 clubs stands, competition and Burger van.
For further information or booking details contact Simon Fisher email- simonfisher2008@btinternet.com or 07769 345271

October 6th-7th
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCALE MODEL EXPO (SASME)
The annual two-day South Australian Scale Model Expo (SASME) is the longest running model event of its type in Australia boasting a 30 year history. Centenary Gym, Christian Brothers College, 214 Wakefield St, Adelaide, Australia
www.saplasticmodellers.com.au
Catering is also available at the venue.

October 13th
North Surrey Military Modelling Group's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 13th October 2012 from 10am- 4pm at: The Thomas Wall Centre, 52 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4DP

October 20th
London MAFVA 2012 Model Show and Open Day
The London Branch of the Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicle Association (MAFVA) will be holing their annual show and open day on October 20th. from 10.30 to 17.00 at St Mary's Chuch Hall, Edith Road, West Kensington, London, W14 9BA the competitions are open to all comers with traders, visiting clubs and refreshments.
Further details available from Peter Bailey 01304 614184 or John Polonczyk polmodels@aol.com

October 27th
Help For Heroes Model Show. Military Vehicle Trust (West Sussex). Make and Take Sponsored By AIRFIX.
On Saturday 27 October 2012 between 10am and 4pm Bognor Military Modelling and Wargaming Society will be holding their annual open day at the West Meads Community Hall, Bognor Regis PO21 5SB.
For more information please contact: Nick Sandford by e-mail nick_sandford@hotmail.com

November 3rd
IPMS MIDDLE TENNESSEE MODEL CONTEST
will be held on November 3 2012 at: Rutherford Country Agricultural Center, 315 John Rice Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN 37129.
The theme will be Fabulous 50s.
Doors open to vendors at 6:30am. Doors open to the public at 8:00am. Registration 8:00am to 12:00pm.
For additional information please contact Novus Henry. Phone 615 478 2305. Email nhenryjr@bellsouth.net; or Tom Winter. Phone 615 479 7737. Email a330driver@bellsouth.net

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WWII German Staff Car

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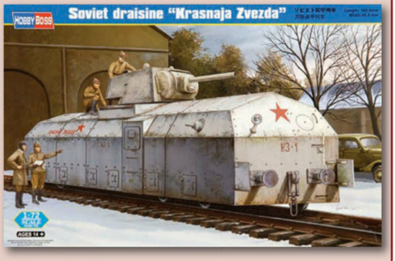
1:35

Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



HOBBYBOSS

1:72 SCALE
SOVIET DRAISINE 'KRASNAJA ZVEZDA'
KIT NO. 82912

These armoured train models seem to be very much 'in vogue' at the moment and judging by this offering from HobbyBoss it is obvious why.

HobbyBoss' 1:72 scale Soviet Draisine 'Krasnaja Zvezda' kit comes in a large sturdy lid-and-tray box sporting superb artwork on the top. Inside, the sense of quality continues with an A4 colour poster of the kit, an A4 colour painting and marking sheet and a large, well produced instruction booklet.

The four sprues are all separately bagged as is the main hull of the train which sits in its own cardboard compartment within the box. No danger of damaged parts here!

There are not a huge number of parts to the kit, (79), but what there is is excellent. The rivet detail on the hull is superb, as is the detail on the KV turret mounted on the roof. This has a slide moulded, hollow bore main gun barrel and a separate commander's hatch with interior detail. The hull is finished off with a couple of machine gun ports and the buffers and couplings, all of which are up to the standard of the rest of the kit.

The running gear is simple but again very well moulded, and hardly visible on the finished kit which is displayed on a large section of track included in the box.

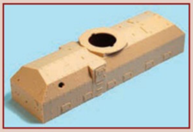
The paint scheme shows the standard overall Russian Green with red stars, serial number and slogans supplied on the small decal sheet. The box lid artwork, however, shows the Draisine in winter whitewash, which would be a good alternative.

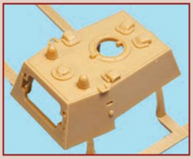
Probably the only improvement I would make would be to replace all the grab handles with wire, a tedious job but well worth the effort.

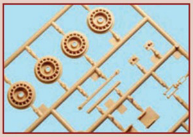
Highly Recommended.

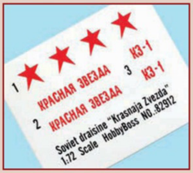
Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample
www.creativemodels.co.uk

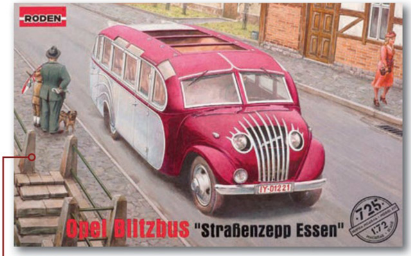
Steve Shrimpton








КРАСНАЯ ЗВЕЗДА
КРАСНАЯ ЗВЕЗДА
К3-1
К3-1
1
2
3
Soviet draisine "Krasnaja Zvezda" 1:72 Scale HobbyBoss NO.82912



RODEN

1:72 SCALE
OPEL BLITZBUS 'STRASSENZEPP ESSEN'
KIT NO. 725

The Ukrainian firm of Roden continue to surprise the modelling world with unusual releases. This kit of the Strassenzepp Essen is the latest of a range of buses built in the 1930s on the Opel Blitz 3 ton truck chassis, and is a civilian version, although they were frequently taken over for military use, mainly by the Luftwaffe.

The kit comes in Roden's usual end-opening box with excellent artwork on the front and a painting and marking guide on the back.

The kit consists of two large sprues and five small sprues, a sheet of clear acetate marked out for the windows, a sheet of decals, all bagged together, and a well produced instruction booklet.

One of the larger sprues consists of the chassis, engine and drive train, and is common with the other bus kits and the opal Blitz truck kit. Consequently, a number of the parts are marked not for use with this model. The second large sprue has all the bodywork parts, and the small sprues contain the wheels, suspension and interiors fitting such as seats etc.

The quality of the moulding, while not quite up to other major manufacturers, is good with little flash or sink marks present. There are some ejector pin stubs to remove from the leaf springs and some of the engine and chassis parts.

The bus interior is well moulded with is unusual arrangement of seats, most of which are set at 45 degrees to give passengers superb panoramic views. This will require careful painting as they will be very visible through the large windows. The clear acetate sheet provided for the glazing is very well marked out for cutting, and should look very good when installed.

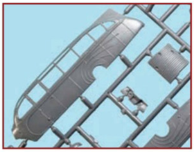
The civilian paint scheme as shown on the box looks excellent but will be quite challenging to execute with panels of silver and scarlet (although it could be painted as a Luftwaffe vehicle). The small decal sheet contains the license plates and some of the chrome trim.

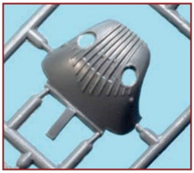
This kit should make an unusual addition to any collection and is highly recommended.

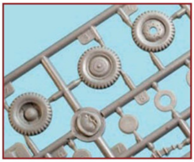
Highly Recommended.

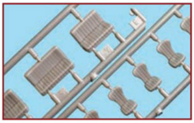
Thanks to hobbyshop.cz for the sample
http://www.hobbyshop.cz

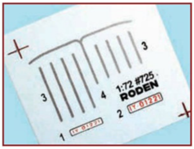
Steve Shrimpton











Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

BRONCO

1:35 SCALE
WWII BRITISH/ COMMONWEALTH PHEASANT GUN CREW
ITEM NO. CB 35135

BRONCO
Bronco Models
CB35135
'PHEASANT' 17/25 PDR ANTI-TANK GUN CREW SET
(TUNISIA, SICILY & ITALY)
1:35 SCALE

Bronco produces superb and highly detailed kits of many artillery subjects, in particular their British 25 Pdr, the 17/25 pdr "Pheasant" and 17 pounder. Bronco, unlike other companies, usually offer sets of crews to pose with their guns.

This set joins the 17 pdr and the 25 pdr crews previously released by Bronco. Unlike those earlier crews, these are dressed in tropical uniforms suitable for Tunisia, Sicily and the early Italian Campaign where the hybrid 25/17 pdr was used.

This set has five figures in total with four standing and one seated gunner. Three figures are in shorts and short sleeves, one is in short sleeves and long trousers suit and the last is an officer in the tropical tunic and peaked cap. All the other figures are supplied with Mk II tin helmets. One figure has his shirt out reminiscent of the old Tamiya 25 pdr crew. No webbing other than belts is depicted and no crew personal weapons or gear is included, which is different from their 17 pdr crew that supplies Bronco's British Equipment sprue. No ammunition is supplied either, although Bronco does offer a set of such ammunition and it comes with the gun kit.

The poses are a bit of a dilemma with the officer indicating a target as if in action but one figure is standing with hands on hips looking rather disinterested. The Gunner has superb animation with his lower legs crossed over with his face up to the telescopic sight and hands can pe posed on the laying controls. The remaining crew are depicted loading a shell, which is not supplied, and the other holding another round. Photos and films I have seen of the 17/25 pdr (and other AT guns) in action show a bit more animation and a lot lower profile than these which look more at home with a field piece to me.

Detail on the figures is very good as are the faces, which will respond well to a wash. The only area I thought was not done so well is the puttees / short gaiters, which were pretty indistinct and it is hard to tell where the boots finish and the puttees start or whether they were puttees of anklets. The sock tops were well done and detailed though.

The box art has superb painted illustrations of each figure giving good colour references and posing suggestions. These are a must for the modeller of Middle Eastern Theatre Commonwealth artillery and are adaptable to the 25 pdr from Bronco and to many other subjects including AFV crews and I am certain they will be extremely popular.

Bronco is to be commended on their attention to detail and their execution in providing us with these excellent figures. I eagerly await future sets of figures from this imaginative company.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Bronco for the sample www.cn-bronco.com

Al Bowie

EVOLUTION MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE
SS GRENADIERS LAH
ITEM NO. EM-35062

EVOLUTION
SS GRENADIERS LAH Set-2

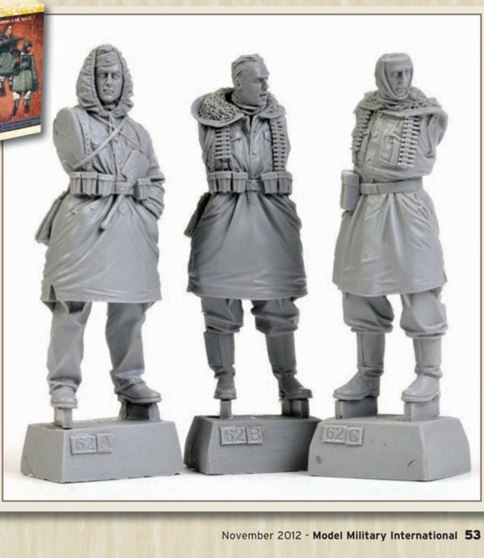
This new set of three 1:35 scale figures from Evolution Miniatures is almost an instant vignette. The only extra elements required are a base and a suitable backdrop.

All three figures depict German infantrymen in double-breasted fur lined parkas so often seen in the mid to later part of World War Two. The box top shows these painted in Field Grey but, I have also seen this parka in white, brown and in a very interesting Italian camouflage pattern.

The casting and sculpting on these figures is first rate with the execution of the ammo pouches and folds in the fabric being simply superb. One of my pet hates about resin figures in general is that most are labelled as 1:35 but are actually closer to 1:32 scale (54mm). These don't really buck that trend and are quite tall for 1:35. All three scale out at 5-foot 11, whichis well above the average height for the time depicted.

The posing of the figures, however, lend themselves to many applications and would work very well as a standalone piece. Resin figures in this scale don't come much better that this!

Highly Recommended.

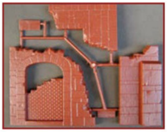


Thanks to Evolution Miniatures for the sample www.evolution-miniatures.com

Luke Pitt

Incoming

Church Door
N. 409
1:35
ITALERI



ITALERI

1:35 SCALE CHURCH DOOR • ITEM NO. 409

This 1:35 scale re-release from Italeri is a blast from the past. I first built one when I was a child and was drawn to it by the Francois Verlinden paint scheme.

Long before Miniart, Italeri produced a set of these diorama buildings and what you see here is a simple kit that is more of a painting exercise than a building one.

All you get are four parts with no instructions or decals that fit together well, although a bit of filler will be needed around the joins. Perhaps the only flaw is that there is no 'back' to these parts as they are moulded hollow. They will need to be filled, especially if you intend to add any detail on the insides.

Detail is actually quite good as the stone effect is very well done. You certainly would not think that this was tooled over 30 years ago. The design of the building is probably more appropriate to a European church, but with a bit of adaptation you could use if for a North African building.

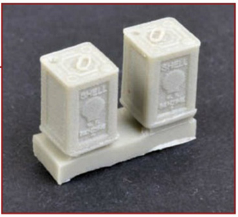
Ideal for a vignette or small vehicle, this will make a perfect backdrop. Just provide your own rubble.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Graham Tetley

SHELL
35.2343
4 gallon flimsies
8 x Shell
8 x MT
RESICAST
517 Vieux Chemin de Binche
7000 Mons - Belgium
http://www.resicast.com
Resi CAST



RESICAST

1:35 SCALE 4 GALLON FLIMSIES • ITEM NO. 35.2343

Resicast has just released a simple but interesting set of 16 resin 4-gallon fuel cans. These flimsies are divided equally between 8 x Shell cans and 8 x MT cans.

Casting is perfect on my samples. Cleanup will only require the removal of each pair of flimsies from their casting block with a fine razor saw. The raised embossing detail is really crisp and will lend a period atmosphere to any scene, military or civilian.

This is a useful accessory that will be welcomed by diorama makers in particular.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Resicast for the samples www.resicast.com

Brett Green

Pz.Kpfw.I Ausf.A 4.Serie/La.S.
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Smart Kit
DRAGON

DRAGON

1:35 SCALE
PANZER I AUSF. A 4. SERIE
ITEM NO. 6451

Dragon's latest addition to their 1:35 scale Panzer I family is the early version with four filler caps on the engine deck.

It is crisply moulded and comprises of over 430 parts, although 192 of those are track links and approximately 40 parts are unused. Standard of moulding and detail is excellent with no visible flaws present. There are very few new parts to this version, the main one being the engine deck and decals, so most of what you see in this kit has been seen before.

The road wheels come with photo-etched rims to facilitate the undercut on the originals, but if you don't want to fiddle with the etched rims then an alternative set of plastic wheels is included. The whole suspension system is superbly detailed and complimented by the 'Magic' tracks, which are tiny but really look the part when completed.

I would recommend fitting the rear plate in step three, but then jumping forward to complete the superstructure. Once done, dry-fit the engine deck, superstructure, running boards and front glacis and then glue the whole lot when you have twiddled it around to avoid gaps.

There is no interior to this kit (unlike its predecessor) so whilst you get the mechanisms for opening the vision ports and detailed hatch interiors, there is just a big hole visible through the hatches.

Looking at the exterior details, the jack is fully detailed and all tools and clasps are depicted in plastic. Etched guards are provided to go around the mufflers, as are the grilles for the rear of the engine deck, and the main features of the original have been captured.

The only area of conjecture with this kit is in the decal options provided. Dragon gives us a simple set of three white balkankreuz and options for two unidentified units from 1936. Some online reviews of this kit have pointed out that the three-colour camouflage scheme, as well as the white balkenkreuz, are not appropriate for a vehicle from 1936 as Dragon have depicted. All I will say is use your references as markings and a paint scheme are easy to correct.

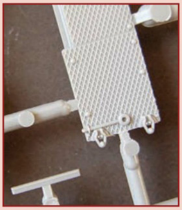
In summary, this is a good kit, albeit it would have been better with the interior. Detail is nice and sharp and there are no major exterior errors to speak of. Just build it and enjoy it.

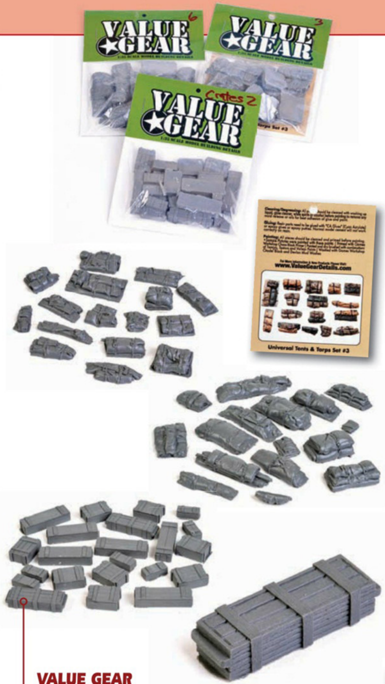
Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Graham Tetley

Panzer I Ausf.A
MA-6289





VALUE GEAR

1:35 SCALE PACKS AND CRATES - VARIOUS SETS

Value Gear is a new company specialising in creating unique sets of stowage for 1:35 scale military vehicles.

Value Gear's stated mission is to give your vehicles more variety. They do this by creating sets of resin stowage where no two pieces are the same. So far, Value Gear has released six sets of Tents and Tarps, and two sets of Crates.

The first set under review is Tents and Tarps Set 3. This contains 16 unique sets of packs and tarps, all with straps and some including tools bundled in place.

Tents and Tarps Set 6 is presented along the same lines, but with totally different combinations of packs, tents and folded tarpaulins, each created from a unique master.

The third set for review includes wooden 22 crates presented in four different shapes and sizes. Although the styles are the same, each and every crate in this set is individual. Some of these will be suitable for ammunition crates, and with 22 resin pieces in this set, there will be more than enough for several vehicles.

Casting quality for all three sets is excellent. Cleanup will be minimal too, as there is very little in the way of resin waste.

Most of the packs are cast with a flat tarp as the bottom layer. You may therefore want to hollow out the area underneath so that the piece of stowage does not float above hand holds, hinges and other structural elements on the deck of your tank or vehicle.

Examples of painted packs and crates on Value Gear's website look great.

Value Gear's packs and crates will be a very handy and individual finishing touch for your 1:35 scale tanks and military vehicles. I think I'll be buying a few more of these sets to boost my arsenal of stowage for future projects!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Value Gear for the samples www.valuegeardetails.com

Brett Green

MIG productions
DIRTY GLASS WASH
MIG productions
MUD SPLASH WASH
MIG productions
MOSS GREEN WASH

ABSOLUTE CHIPPING
MIG

MIG PRODUCTIONS

P303 - DIRTY GLASS WASH
P304 - MUD SPLASH WASH
P 305 - MOSS GREEN WASH
P250 – ABSOLUTE CHIPPING ACRYLIC SOLUTION

MIG Productions' has expanded its range of enamel washes with three new shades. Although the self-explanatory labels suggest the most obvious uses for these washes, they will all be quite versatile. In particular, the Moss Green wash should deliver some interesting effects on overall green vehicles, especially Soviet. The Mud Splash Wash will be a nice base or cover for splatters applied by airbrush too.

MIG's washes are a bit thicker than their Filter range, so the effect is more noticeable. The instructions suggest that the wash should be allowed to dry on the model for around 15 minutes before the excess is wiped off. A more precise application of the wash around structural features might then be applied with a very fine brush.

The fourth product is something new but was probably inevitable considering current weathering trends.

MIG's new "Absolute Chipping" acrylic solution is a specialised substitution for hairspray for the popular chipping method. Instead of spraying hairspray over a base colour, this new solution may be sprayed or applied by brush over a base of acrylic paint. After 30 minutes, the top colour may be applied. Following another 30 minutes, the chipping solution may be brushed over the top coat to soften the paint, and you may chip away using your favourite method – brush, needle, knife or any combination of all these.

This is an interesting new product and I look forward to testing it out.

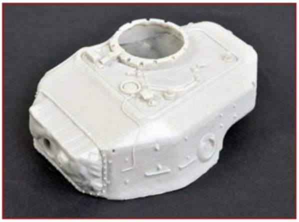
Recommended.

Thanks to MIG Productions for the samples www.migproductions.com

MIG Productions products are available in the UK from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

CASTOFF
Centurion mkIII turret
20 pounder type A barrel and
Top opening bins
For AFV Club Centurions
To backdate to an early mkIII
CASTOFF-MODELS.CO.UK



CASTOFF

1:35 SCALE CENTURION EARLY MK.III TURRET CONVERSION • ITEM NO. CR032

Cast-Off Models' newest conversion is a 1:35 scale early version Centurion Mk.III turret with the 20 pdr Type A barrel and top opening bins. The set is designed to fit the AFV Club Centurions.

This is a very simple conversion, not even requiring instructions. Five resin parts are supplied – an impressive one-piece turret, the two piece split gunner's hatch and two top-opening stowage bins for the hull. A very nice turned metal 20 pdr barrel is also included.

The turret looks great. Cast texture is excellent, while wiring, vision blocks and other characteristics of this early turret are cast in place. The mantlet features a canvas cover with its surrounding mounting strip.

This should be an easy conversion for modellers with moderate experience.

Highly Recommended.

Cast-Off Models products are available from their website www.castoff-models.co.uk

Brett Green

Book Reviews

THE CHURCHILL TANK – A VISUAL HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ARMY'S HEAVY INFANTRY TANK 1941-1945 PART TWO: CHURCHILL BASED VEHICLES

BY DAVID DOYLE

AMPERSAND PUBLISHING

The Churchill was a remarkably versatile workhorse that was successfully adapted to many roles beyond the standard gun tank. These included flamethrower, recovery tank, bridge layer, demolition vehicles and many more.

Ampersand Publishing's newest title covers these specialised variants of the Churchill Tank. The opening comment beneath the Table of Contents states that the intention of this book is to provide a visual showcase for the type, and it fully succeeds in this objective.

Ampersand's "The Churchill Tank Part Two" is presented in soft-covered landscape format with 120 pages between its covers. Following a brief introduction by British military historian David Fletcher, David Doyle presents a veritable feast for the eyes for all fans of WWII British vehicles. The vast majority of pages feature a single large and well-reproduced photo with a succinct but helpful caption. All the photos inside the book are black and white, taken from contemporary wartime sources, but the front cover is crowned with a well-produced colour image of a Churchill Crocodile flame thrower in action.

Almost all the photos show the Churchill in action, during training or being maintained by their crews.

The title is divided logically into Chapters according to the menagerie of variants. These Chapters are as follows:

- Churchill Black Prince
- Churchill AVRE Onion
- Churchill Goat AVRE Snake
- Churchill Mk.I ATOG
- Churchill Bullshorn
- Churchill CIRD
- Churchill AMRCR
- Churchill Flail FV3902 Toad
- Churchill 3 inch Gun Carrier
- Churchill ARV
- Churchill TLC
- Churchill ARK
- Churchill Bridgelayer
- Churchill Okes Flamethrower
- Churchill Crocodile

The Churchill Tank
A visual history of the British Army's heavy infantry tank 1941-1945
Part Two: Churchill based vehicles

This is a terrific book, beautifully presented and offering ample inspiration to modellers of Churchill Tank variants. It will be especially helpful to anyone who plans to convert the excellent new AFV Club 1:35 scale Churchill family, or the older Tamiya Mk.VII, into some of these fascinating variants.

Highly Recommended.

Available online from Ampersand Publishing www.ampersandpubco.com

Brett Green

ALLIED-AXIS – THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. ISSUE 28

DAVID DOYLE, SCOTT TAYLOR, JEFF KLEINHENZ AND PATRICK STANSELL.

THE AMPERSAND PUBLISHING GROUP

Allied-Axis
THE PHOTO JOURNAL OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR
Sd.Kfz.6 5-ton halftrack
U.S. 3-inch anti-tank gun
British Covenanter Heavy Cruiser Tank
German Schwere Ladungsträger (Sd.Kfz 301)
U.S. M6/M6A1 Heavy Tank
28

Allied-Axis: The Photo Journal of the Second World War is a dedicated reference magazine from Ampersand Publishing of the USA.

This 96-page, soft cover publication is published four times a year, and typically contains between four and six chapters on a variety of WWII vehicles.

David Doyle's cover story for Issue 28 is the Sd.Kfz. 6 half-track prime mover. The article describes the variants ranging from troop transport, artillery transport, engineering and self-propelled gun. An excellent selection of full-page well-captioned photos is included. This section runs from pages 2 to 25.

Next, David Doyle conducts an illustrated examination of the US 3 inch Anti-Tank Gun M5. The first 13 pages of photos show the gun in action, and the Chapter is concluded with a four page museum walk around.

Fans of rare US vehicles will be thrilled to find the T1 / M6 Heavy Tank as the subject for the third Chapter. Once again, the vehicle is shown in contemporary wartime photos for the first 14 pages with a nine-page walk around of the Aberdeen example, and concluding with two official retouched photos and specifications. This Chapter will be especially useful for anyone building the 1:35 scale Commanders resin T6 kit.

This is followed by an interesting photo-essay on the Sprengladungstrager Sd.Kfz.301 Ausf. A and B. This was a remote-controlled charge layer manufactured by Borgward. Most of the photos here are captured examples, but the quality is very good with plenty of useful detail evident. I particularly liked the chalked warning on one of the vehicles that was still fitted with its explosive charge – "Don't get too near. Thank you"!

A 16 page Chapter on the Covenanter Heavy Cruiser Tank wraps up this issue. Information and photos are hard to come by on this flawed but still important interim design, so I was delighted to see these large and well-produced images. This Chapter will be very welcome to modellers who have bought the excellent Inside the Armour 1:35 scale Covenanter kit.

Allied-Axis follows a simple but very useful formula, providing a great deal of detailed reference material via large, well reproduced photographs and detailed captions. The series is ideal for modellers, and will provide ample inspiration as well as information.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Ampersand Publishing for the sample www.ampersandpubco.com

Brett Green

3-inch antitank gun

Squadron/Signal Publications

Over 250 books offering a wealth of information

SQUADRON/SIGNAL PUBLICATIONS MODELLING REFERENCE BOOKS

Squadron Signal Publications is one of the best known and most extensive ranges of modelling reference books ever published, featuring high quality photographs of aircraft, tanks, ships and more in action, as well as an ever-expanding range of 'walk-around' volumes which show the subject inside and out in crystal-clear photographs - perfect for superdetailing projects.

The books have been helping modellers to add essential details, find markings and apply paint schemes to aircraft, armour and ship models for many years, and the great news is that Squadron Signal books are now easier to find than ever before, because ADH Publishing, the company that brings you this magazine each month, is importing them from the USA.

You can find Squadron Signal at good model and book shops, and you can also check www.adhbooks.com to see what we have on offer!

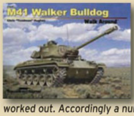
Please call us now for full details of prices, availability and range; UK (+44) 01525 222573

SS27025 - M26 Dragon Wagon Walk Around (Soft Cover)
SS67025 - M26 Dragon Wagon Walk Around (Hard Cover)

M26 Dragon Wagon
Walk Around

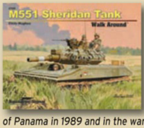
Designed by the Knuckey Truck Company with series production by the Pacific Car and Foundry Company, the "40-ton Tank Transporter Truck Trailer M25" - dubbed the "Dragon Wagon" by enthusiasts - was the largest wheeled vehicle fielded by the U.S. Army during World War II. The M25 consisted of the M26 tractor and M15 trailer. Designed to recover disabled tanks and other heavy armored vehicles from forward areas, the M26 featured a large and heavily armored cab to protect the crew. Field use, however, indicated that typically this vehicle was not used in recovery operations during the heat of battle, so the later-production M26A1 eschewed the armored cab in favor of reduced weight and increased reliability. As U.S. tanks evolved and became larger and heavier, an upgraded version of the trailer, the M15A1, was introduced to accommodate them. During the 1950s the M15A1 was further modified to the M15A2 standard, which featured a 24-volt lighting system. As such, these veteran trailers saw service thorough the Vietnam War and into the 1970s. The M26 and M26A1 remained in the U.S. Army inventory well beyond the end of WWII - even being employed by NASA to move the Saturn V rockets that launched man to the moon in the 1960s. This Walk Around examines the armored and soft-skin versions of this massive vehicle, and its trailers, through hundreds of color photos and some of the finest restored examples in existence. The reader is visually taken over, under, and through these vehicles from front bumper to loading ramp. Illustrated with over 230 photographs. 80 pages.

SS27024 - M41 Walker Bulldog Walk Around (Soft Cover)
SS67024 - M41 Walker Bulldog Walk Around (Hard Cover)



The standard U.S. light tank during the early years of the Cold War, the M41 Bulldog was developed as a more powerful successor to the M24 Chaffee. Named for General Walton Walker who died in a Jeep accident in Korea, the Walker Bulldog was maneuverable and well armed. It was, however, rushed to the battlefield to counter North Korea's Soviet built T-34s before all its own kinks had been worked out. Accordingly a number of Bulldog variants were developed over the years in an effort to overcome initial deficiencies. The U.S. Army began phasing out the Bulldog at the end of the 1960s, but the rugged vehicle has served more than 20 other countries and continues to operate in several armies around the world to this day. The detailed photographs that pack this volume offer readers a detailed look at all the facets of the M41, inside and out. In addition to comprehensive images of the outside of the Bulldog, five pages cover the engine compartment alone, while images of the interior of vehicle and turret fill 25 pages. Illustrated with 250 photographs plus color profiles and numerous detailed line drawings; 80 pages.

SS27026 - M551 Sheridan Walk Around (Soft cover)
SS67026 - M551 Sheridan Walk Around (Hard cover)



First deployed in combat in Vietnam, the M551 Sheridan is the first U.S. tank to be fully amphibious and also airborne capable. Though maintenance problems and issues with the gun-launcher system caused the M551 to be withdrawn from most active Army units in the late 1970s, it continued to serve the 82nd Airborne Division as the only armored vehicle in the Army's inventory that could be air dropped. With the 82nd, the Sheridan took part in the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989 and in the war against Iraq in 1990-1991. The last M551s were withdrawn from U.S. service in 2003. Based on photographic studies of various M551s, volume offers readers the first-ever up close look at the Sheridan. Coverage of the basic M551 begins with the suspension and works its way around the exterior of the tank, into the engine compartment and finishes with a detailed look at the vehicle's interior. Photos of the sub-variants of the M551 Sheridan, such as the "Product Improvement Program," A1, and VISMODs round out this profile of the versatile historic tank. Illustrated by more than 240 photographs plus eight detailed line drawings. 80 pages.

SS12051 - M151 MUTT IN ACTION (Soft cover)
SS52051 - M151 MUTT IN ACTION (Hard cover)

M151 MUTT
In Action

The M151 was intended to be a lightweight, high-mobility replacement for the M38A1, itself a successor to the famed World War II jeep. Dubbed the Military Utility Tactical Truck or "MUTT" by the military - GIs almost universally referred to the vehicle as a "jeep." The series' service life spanned more than 40 years and four manufacturers, and the vehicles saw service everywhere the US GI was deployed. This volume chronicles the development and field use of the M151 series in Europe, the Middle East and, of course, there is extensive coverage of the vehicles' service in Vietnam. The photos, many previously unpublished, are augmented by seven line drawings. Illustrated with 220 photographs; 80 pages.

SS36003 - OH-6 AEROSCOUT COMBAT CHRONICLES (Soft cover)
SS76003 - OH-6 AEROSCOUT COMBAT CHRONICLES (Hard cover)

Aeroscouts in Vietnam
Combat Chronicles

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, U.S. Army planners sought to increase the Army's helicopter force. The Army developed new tactical doctrine using helicopters - the airmobile concept - which was based largely on air cavalry units. Such units were descendants of the US Cavalry, which had operated as light, horse-mounted infantry. Air cavalry troopers were, in essence, horse soldiers, and helicopters were their steed. True to their proud and colorful heritage, the Air Cavalry not only employed tactics used by their forefathers of the Indian wars, they embraced their culture as they deployed in the grueling conflict in Indochina. Packed with more than 30 action packed, often hair raising first-hand accounts of helicopter scout combat in Vietnam, this latest addition takes you into the thick of the action. Besides being exciting reading, these personal recollections by dozens of the fighters themselves provide invaluable, primary source historical coverage of one of America's epic conflicts as experienced by frontline helicopter scouts. Illustrated with over 160 photographs; 136 pages.

Shown here is a selection of some of the most popular titles, many more available

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DETAIL, MAN!

I don't know about you, but I love detailed models.

I remember as a kid, I used to love going to model shows and looking at how much detail the models had. I like intricate small details. I must confess when reviewing, model kits I zero in on details first, then shape second.

It's kind of funny - when reviewing a kit I like a lot of details, but when building a kit I don't like a lot of details! Why you may ask is this the case? Well, it all comes down to giving the model I make some sort of individuality. It is my hope that the model I produce will be different to somebody else's, so I like to add my own details.

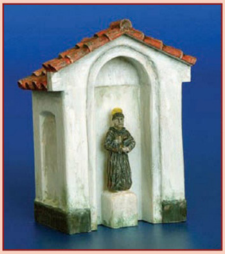
Again, another funny thing I do when opening a kit to review is that my mind set instantly switches over to "how to improve" mode. I look firstly at over scale parts and formulate ways to improve them. I then move to perceived construction problems and formulate other ways to build the sub assembly and lastly my mind switches to "how can I add detail to the model" mode. In some instances this can be extremely difficult.

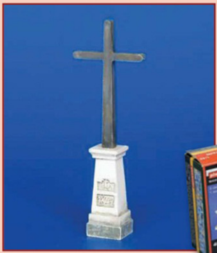
Take, for example the recently released Bronco Staghounds. The models are so complete and detailed it is extremely difficult to improve upon them. Now, one camp of modellers would have you believe that this is what we have always wanted and we should therefore stop complaining, while the other camp will say, no, they are too detailed with too many parts and therefore take too long to assemble!

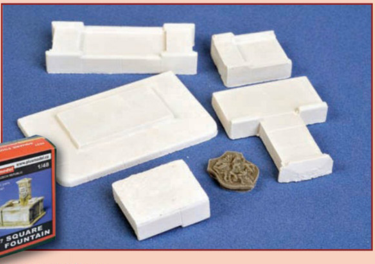
One can only conclude that you would hate to be a plastic kits manufacturer these days as you just can't please everybody. No one body of modellers is either right or wrong, and basically the vast amount of modellers are quite happy to build right out of the box, but as one of my friends often says (in his best Dennis Hopper voice) "It's all about the detail, man"

Until next time *Luke Pitt*

PLUS MODEL







CHAPEL WITH STATUE

KIT NO: 4024

This set is cast in three simple and well detailed resin pieces. The base of the chapel exhibits some fine surface texture that replicates a masonry type of construction rather nicely and removing from the pour plug should be rather easy as well. The roof of the Chapel is cast equally well with, great attention to detail in regards to the European style of roof construction, being terracotta half pipes laid on top of one another. Removal of this pour plug will take a bit more care. The last resin piece is the statue and this is also nicely cast with halo and bible in hand. This tiny little figure looks the part. There are no instructions or photos for reference painting and in the grand scheme of things, nothing to get too worried about. This set will make a nice addition to any type of diorama you might have in mind.

CROSS ON PEDESTAL

KIT NO: 4026

Plus Model look to be on some type of religious theme with this next set. This set consists of two simply cast resin pieces. The base for the cross is cast to represent some type of masonry structure to which the cross is attached. The cross is a very basic casting and also looks to be made to represent some type of masonry material. There are no instructions or photo reference included and I would presume this is because of the very simpler nature of this set. The complete set could once again be used on its own or in some more detailed diorama setting.

SQUARE FOUNTAIN

KIT NO: 4027

This last set consists of five ceramic parts carefully packaged within some bubble wrap and 1 resin part neatly packaged within a sturdy box with an attractive photo of the finished kit on the top. There are no instructions to speak of and it would be presumed that the box top art would help with the construction and painting in this case. The five ceramic parts show no signs of any cracks or air bubbles and have captured the look of masonry block construction very well. A quick dry fit revealed that everything lined up where it should go and some minor sanding/carving will ensure the flush alignment of all these parts. The resin fountain head figure / water spout is then attached to the rear ceramic wall and this completes the fountain, which will look at home in any diorama setting that you may have in mind.

Many thanks to Plus Model for the review samples and I look forward to seeing more of these types of releases in this popular scale. I would recommend all of these sets.
All Highly Recommended.
Thanks to Plus Model for the samples www.plusmodel.cz
Ross Ferro

Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Kazuya Yoshioka

Kazuya Yoshioka is a modeller from Japan. He is 43 and works in advertising. It is a great pleasure to have him with us this month. I have admired his work for many years and I am in awe of his ability to not only visualise but also to make this vision become a reality. He really is a "big picture" modeller. His skills in turning standard Tamiya figures into something special is nothing short of amazing. Never before have I seen Tamiya figures look this good.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Kazuya. Good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Kazuya: ***Thanks for inviting me Luke. The model I like best is a diorama I have completed recently. I wanted to convey to the viewer the impression of movement while having the Sdk.fz.251 riding over rough ground. My aim was also to show the halftrack was an APC and thus I have loaded it with as many figures as I could manage.***

Luke: Well Kazuya, I believe you have pulled this off. I would consider this piece one of the best 1:48 dioramas I have seen this year. The end result is stunning. What would you consider the most influential 1:48 model you have seen in print and why?

Kazuya: ***You are too kind Luke, thank you. I am strongly influenced by local Japanese modellers and indeed the work of overseas modellers. I often check the work on web sites like "Missing Lynx" and I like many of the models there. In regard to the print media I am strongly influenced by Mr Mike Rinaldi. My favourite models of his are the Pz.Kpfw.IV and his Hetzer. His colour sense and weathering style are to me very natural and I admire them greatly.***

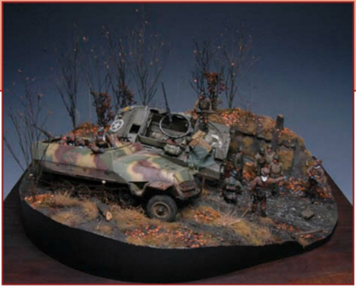
Luke: Tell me, if you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 what would that be?

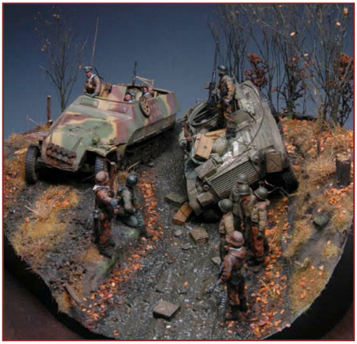
Kazuya: ***If I had influence I would recommend a T-55 from Tamiya. Although its size is small compared with 1:35 scale. It has a certain presence that would work very well on 1:48. I am greatly impressed with the JS-2 from Tamiya as it has a plastic hull as well.***

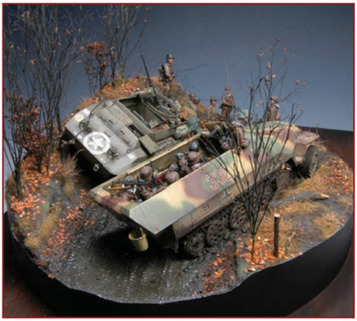
Luke: Thanks for your time Kazuya. I am inspired and indeed influenced by your builds and know a lot of others are too. Do you have any additional thoughts on 1:48 scale AFV modelling?

Kazuya: ***The great strength of 1:48 scale is its size. It is not too small to detail and not too big to overpower a diorama. It really is the best of both worlds. More complex dioramas ideas can be achieved with a smaller footprint. If you're like me, then that can only be a good thing.***

Luke: Thanks for your ideas and views Kazuya.







d.Anh. 105 Feldofen/German Field Bakery
CMK
Full Resin Kit 1/48

CMK

SD.ANH.105 FELDOFEN (GERMAN FIELD BAKERY) • KIT NO. 8037

CMK continues to grown their line of 1:48 scale resin sets and this release is certainly interesting to say the least.

The parts come packaged in nice sturdy box with a photo of the built up kit on the top. Inside we have a neatly printed instructions sheet identifying part numbers, with construction set out over four stages. The back page of the instruction sheet includes a painting guide for a 1942 Libyan scheme and a 1945 European scheme. There are 22 cleanly cast resin parts, with the stand out being the one piece oven unit as wheel as well as the beautifully detailed wheels.

The construction of the parts looks to present no major challenges although you will have to supply some 0.5 mm wire which needs to be added to some of the resin parts. In this regard some locating points when attaching the wire to the resin parts would prove useful or you can rely on the box top or and your own judgement to get the placement correct.

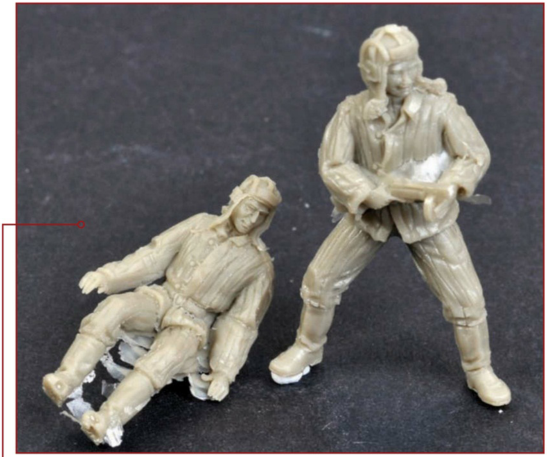
In conclusion, this is a very nicely produced kit of an unusual subject that would be at home in any number of dioramas. Some experience working with resin will also prove useful.

Recommended.

Thanks to CMK for the review samples www.cmkkits.com

Ross Ferro

48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases



SCALE48

1:48 SCALE RUSSIAN TANKERS • ITEM NO. 48003

Scale48 is a recent entrant to the 1:48 scale figure modelling market from Ukraine.

Their third release is a set of two 1:48 scale Soviet WWII tankers. One is seated while the other is standing in a heroic action pose, feet planted firmly apart, with his PPSH 41 machine gun aimed at an enemy close by. Both figures wear the M43 Gymnastroika and tanker's helmets.

Casting of both figures in my sample is very good with just one pinhole at the end of each of the seated tanker's boots. The figures are cast in one piece each. Even the PPSH gun is cast in place, although the delicate end of the barrel has been knocked off mine at some time during its long journey.

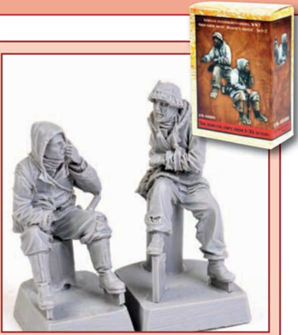
There are no casting blocks at all, just a little feather-fine flash to clean up with a hobby knife before painting can commence.

Sculpting is excellent, with a high level of detail, realistic draping of the uniform and nice facial expressions. These two figures will be perfect for many mid to late war vignettes, or as crew members for any of the growing list of 1:48 scale vehicles of the Great Patriotic War. Alongside Tamiya's 1:48 scale JS-2 perhaps?

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to George from Hobby Terra hobby for the review sample. These figures may be purchased directly from hobbyterra.com

Brett Green



EVOLUTION MINIATURES

GERMAN PANZER GRENADIERS WWII

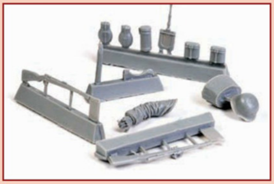
ITEM NO. EM-480008

This new 1:48 scale figure set from Evolution Miniatures may seem uninspiring from the box top illustration but, as they say, "it's all about the details"! The two figures included are some of the best detailed examples released in 1:48 scale to date. Both depict German infantrymen in reversible winter uniform that could be happily applied to any diorama from 1942 onward. The detail on these figures is outstanding. I know I have said this before but once you have experienced how good any of the Evolution 1:48 scale figures are, basically every other figure pales into insignificance. In fact the whole 1:48 Evolution line is so good they could be painted as standalone pieces.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Evolution Miniatures for the review sample www.evolution-miniatures.com

Luke Pitt



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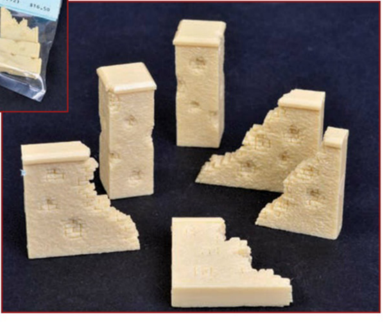
1:48 SCALE
BRICK & STUCCO WALL RUINS
KIT NOS. W72/52A & B

Those of you who read this column regularly will no doubt be aware that I have encouraged the use of products that are not necessarily labelled 1:48. If a product works then why not use it? There is not greater example of this with the product sent along to review this month. These two product are labelled 1:72 but in all honestly they can and indeed should) be used in your next 1:48 diorama. The level of detail is nothing short of amazing with each brick shown to full advantage in the rubble sections of the wall sections. If you want a premium product then you really can't go past these.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Armand Bayardi for the review samples.
He may be contacted on the following web site:
www.armandbayardi.com/brd/

Luke Pitt



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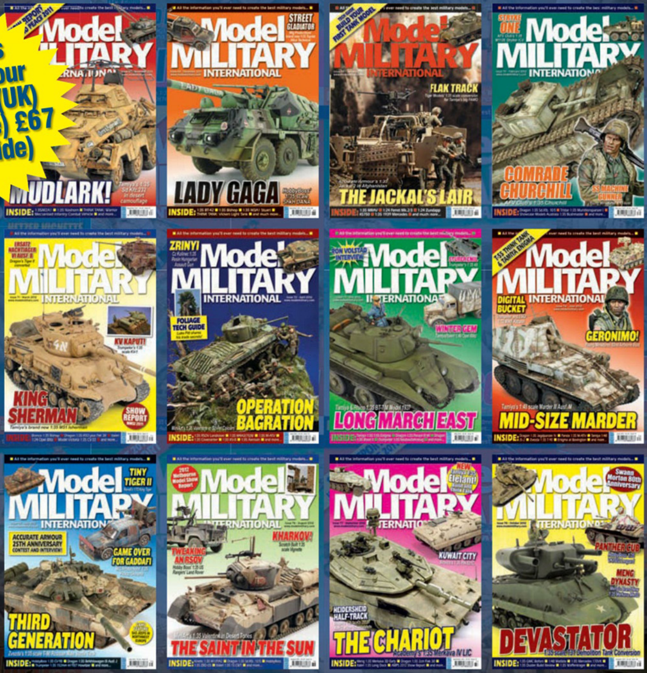

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Next Issue

On sale 1st November 2012

WOODBURNER

Kamil Feliks Sztarbala creates a 1:35 scale Pz.Kpfw.II mit Holzgasantrieb based on the Dragon kit.

TYPE 97 JAPANESE TANK

Fine Molds' 1:35 scale built and detailed by Federico Collada.

RATEL

Stuart Ransley describes the history and operations, and builds a 1:35 scale resin kit, of the South African Ratel IFV.

ELEFANT Part Two

Brett Green paints and weathers Tamiya's brand new 1:35 scale Elefant.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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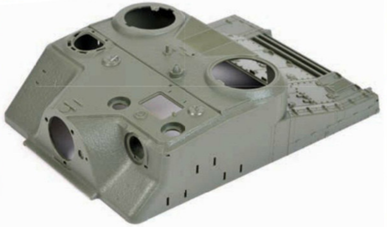
BRITISH HEAVY ASSAULT TANK
A39 TORTOISE
1/35 SCALE
MENG



TORTOISE ON STEROIDS

Meng Models' brand new 1:35 scale A39 Tortoise has just arrived at MMI's Southern Hemisphere office. **The Editor** takes a first look at this gargantuan vehicle.

Modellers of a certain age will probably associate Morris with small cars from the inter-war years until the 1970s including the Morris Oxford, Morris Minor, Morris Mini and even the infamous Morris Marina.

However, Morris Motors' parent company, The Nuffield Organisation, also boasted an essential role during the Second World War building Spitfires at an enormous new purpose-built plant at Castle Bromwich, as well as designing and building armoured cars and tanks.

Even at the outbreak of war in 1939, it was clear that British tanks were too lightly armed and armoured to deal with the new generation of armour deployed by Germany. By 1943, Allied armies advancing through Italy encountered stubborn obstacles on the Siegfried Line, and there were no answers available in the current British arsenal. This led to a Joint Memorandum for a heavy assault tank with sufficient armour and firepower to clear such obstacles and break through heavily fortified lines.

The Nuffield Organisation responded with no less than 18 designs. In February 1944, one of the heaviest was selected to directly enter production without even building a prototype. 25 vehicles were ordered but ultimately only six were built prior to the project's cancellation.

This heavy assault vehicle was the A39 Tortoise. The A39 was fitted with a 32 pdr 94 mm main gun that was capable of demolishing heavy obstacles. A fully rotating turret on the superstructure roof was fitted with two Besa machine guns, and a further independently operated Besa gun was located in the hull front. The Tortoise weighed 79 tons, carried a crew of seven and armour was up to 229 mm thick.

Its Rolls-Royce Meteor V12 petrol engine could drive this monster at a stately 12 mph on the road, and 4 mph cross-country.

Despite its great weight and bulk, the Tortoise proved to be both reliable and an excellent gun platform on trials in Germany after the end of WWII. However, the vehicle was never built in production quantities and it remained a technological curiosity along with the other super-heavy tanks of the mid 1940s.

Meng Model has now brought this curiosity to life with an injection moulded 1:35 scale kit of the A39 Tortoise, designed in cooperation with the Tank Museum, which houses a running example.

Underneath the attractive box art lie 474 parts in dark green plastic, 144 brown plastic parts for the individual track links and a length of string. There are no decals or other multimedia parts.

The upper and lower hull parts are enormous. The width of the upper hull is particularly striking. Transporting this vehicle by road or rail would have presented some very serious challenges! Apart from its dimensions, the next thing you will notice about the upper hull is the heavy cast texture. This looks really good straight out of the box. I don't think that I will need to enhance this texture when I build my Tortoise.

The majority of the plastic parts make up the eight suspension units and tracks. There are two styles of suspension unit – A and B – and two of each are fitted to each side. Each unit is made up from four road wheels and four return rollers. The tracks are very wide and each one is quite long too, which is good news as it means that only 62 links are required for each side. The plastic links are perfectly moulded on the inner and outer surfaces too, with no ejector pin circles to clean up.

The long gun barrel is supplied as a single plastic piece, while the counterweight / muzzle brake is split into upper and lower halves. The distinctive ball mantlet will permit elevation and traverse after assembly.

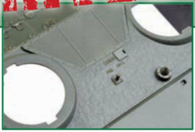
The bulky towing hooks, hatches and the Besa gun turret are all workable too.

Instructions are laid out over 23 clearly illustrated steps in a glossy booklet. No decals are provided. The colour callout is overall Olive Drab, which would have been the British equivalent colour SCC 15 – probably a little greener than US Olive Drab.

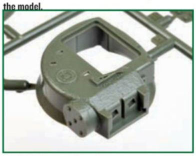
Meng's 1:35 scale A39 Tortoise will be a big and impressive model when finished but its relatively large components mean that it should not be a particularly fussy build. This kit might launch a whole new armour modelling genre too – Royal Armoured Corps 1946!

Meng Model seems to be off to a flying start with its first few armour kits. I look forward to seeing what is up next. ■

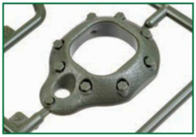
Thanks to Meng Model for the sample www.meng-model.com



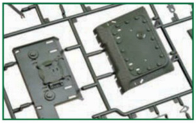
Casting marks are included in various places on the model.



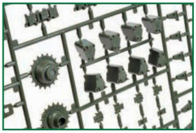
The twin Besa gun turret.



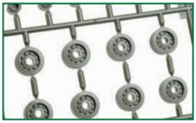
Nice cast texture on the armoured mantlet cover.



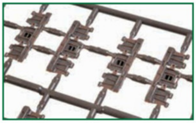
Bolt head and other raised detail looks great.



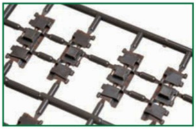
Drive sprockets and other suspension elements.



Road wheels and idler wheels.



The track links are cleanly moulded.

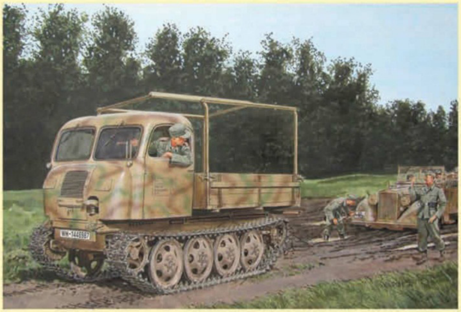


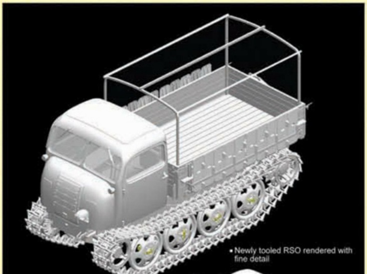
Just as clean on the back surface too!

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES

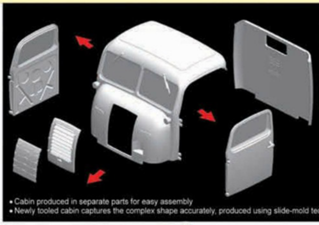
RSO/01 Type 470

Engineered for modeling enjoyment **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** **Unprecedented value** **Ready for immediate assembly!**

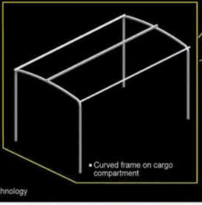




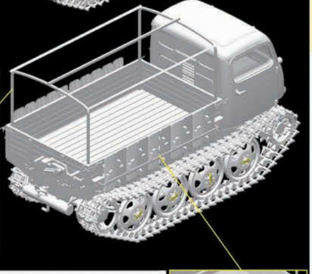
- Newly tooled RSO rendered with fine detail

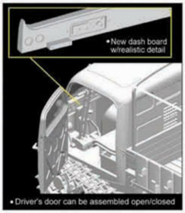


- Cabin produced in separate parts for easy assembly
- Newly tooled cabin captures the complex shape accurately, produced using slide-mold technology

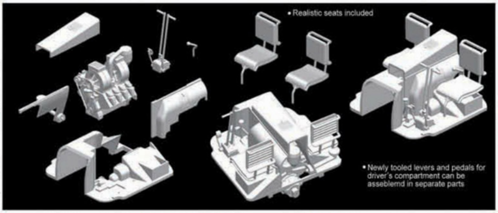


- Curved frame on cargo compartment





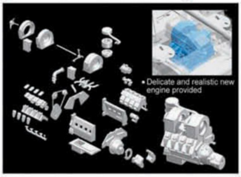
- New dash board w/realistic detail
- Driver's door can be assembled open/closed



- Realistic seats included
- Newly tooled levers and pedals for driver's compartment can be asseblemd in separate parts

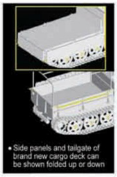
- Spare Winterketten tracks w/detailed surfaces on side panels

- Delicate Notek lamp reproduced

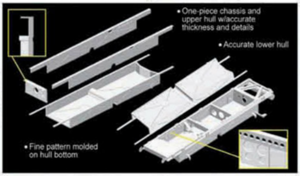


- Delicate and realistic new engine provided

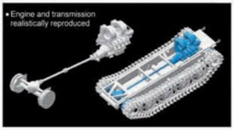
- Drive sprocket and mountings accurately replicated



- Side panels and tailgate of brand new cargo deck can be shown folded up or down



- One-piece chassis and upper hull w/accurate thickness and details
- Accurate lower hull
- Fine pattern molded on hull bottom



- Engine and transmission realistically reproduced

- Detailed suspension included
- Delicate road wheels
- Separate road wheels w/photos-etched details mounted in pairs
- Ammo case is included

- Muffler w/exhaust pipe accurately produced

Magic Track

- Brand new Magic Track

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SEND HER VICTORIOUS

TAMIYA

1/48 Scale Matilda Mk.III/IV British Infantry Tank Mk.IIA*

Item 32572

The Matilda was a British infantry tank which was known for its exploits on the North African front in the early years of WWII. At the time, the Matilda was impervious to any opposing tank or anti-tank gun, and it was respectfully referred to as the "Queen of the Desert" by German and Italian forces. This important tank is now available as an assembly kit in Tamiya's 1/48 Scale Military Miniature Series. From the shape of its hull and turret to the armored skirts which protected its suspension, the distinguishing features of the Matilda have been accurately reproduced in this compact, 127mm long model. The kit also comes with three marking options, including tanks which fought in North Africa. Build this model together with its nemesis, the German 88mm gun, to create a stunning desert diorama.

Commander torso figure included.

Hull and turret feature realistic cast metal texture.

Engine deck is exquisitely detailed.

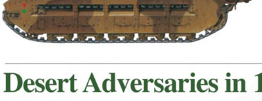
Weights inside the hull give the model greater heft.

Length: 127mm

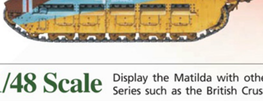
Assembly-type tracks feature one-piece straight sections.

MATILDA Mk.III/IV
BRITISH INFANTRY TANK Mk.IIA*

49th Royal Tank Regt., 35th Tank Bgd., England 1942



32nd Tank Bgd., Libya 1941



★Product may vary from images shown.
★Images show assembled and painted model kit.

1/48 MM MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

Desert Adversaries in 1/48 Scale

Display the Matilda with other models in Tamiya's 1/48 Scale MM Series such as the British Crusader tank and German 88mm FlaK37.

Item 32541

Crusader Mk.I/II British Cruiser Tank Mk.VI

Item 32555

Crusader Mk.III British Cruiser Tank Mk.VI

Item 32529

German Tiger I Initial Production (Africa-Corps)

Item 37009

German 88mm Gun FlaK37 "Siege of Tobruk"

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